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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 the highest, how would you rate the ease of entry and exit to the CNMI since federal authorities took over the local immigration system?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

NATION

Violence, we're used to. But cannibalism? That's something else entirely. ➤ PAGE 14

WORLD

A commercial airliner crashes in Nigeria, killing all 153 people on board. ➤ PAGE 16

LIFE & STYLE

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'Fund's transfer will likely mean it will be liquidated'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Among the options being considered by the Fitial administration for the beleaguered NMI Retirement Fund is its dissolution and transfer of functions to the Department of Finance, which, according to its administrator Richard Villagomez, means the pension program will be liquidated and benefits will end.

RELATED NEWS
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Samples of genuine and counterfeit $100 bills were shown during the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's credit card and currency training session yesterday afternoon, with U.S. Secret Service special agent Glen Peterson from the Guam resident office as presenter. More information about detection of counterfeit currency and guard against forgery loss, among other things, are available at www.secretservice.gov.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Secret Service: Don't rely on just one tool to detect fake bills

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

While there's no massive circulation of counterfeit U.S. dollar bills in the CNMI compared to other areas, U.S. Secret Service special agent Glen Peterson urged Saipan Chamber of Commerce members and guests yesterday not to rely on just one tool, such as a counterfeit money detector pen, but arm themselves with as much knowledge and other gadgets as possible.

Peterson

"You don't want to be the last person stuck with it," Peterson said. "As a business owner you might want to make sure that everyone is aware of what to look for or you'll get stuck with it."

» In NMI, about $1,000 worth of counterfeit bills a year

The items on bills that people have to look out for are the portrait, watermark, security thread, portrait micro-printing and other micro-printing, and color-shifting ink.

The commonly used counterfeit money detector pen has an iodine solution that reacts with the starch in wood-based paper to create a black stain. When the solution is applied to the fiber-

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WITH ARTICLE 12 POPULAR INITIATIVE PUSHED BACK

Senate to act on House initiative on blood quantum

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Senators are poised to act on a Senate-amended House legislative initiative that changes the 25 percent blood quantum requirement to only "at least some degree" of Chamorro or Carolinian blood or a combination of these, in order to be

See SENATE on Page 4

Ex-CUC chair allegedly molested 16-year-old

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Police arrested yesterday morning in Garapan former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board chair Francisco Q. Guerrero for allegedly molesting a 16-year-old girl.

Police officers served the 62-year-old Guerre-

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Local

Idaho-based ICS officially out of CHC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. management and board of directors have agreed to officially end its relationship with Idaho-based International Consulting Services last June 1.

Corporation board chair Joaquin Torres confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that ICS staff left the hospital Friday after the expiration of the grace period of the cease-and-desist order from the Office of the Attorney General.

The sole-source ICS contract was earlier declared by OAG as unlawful for failing to meet the requirements of the law.

The deficiencies in the original contract—signed on Feb. 28 this year—were supposed to have been "fixed" by the central government's re-declaration of a state of emergency at the hospital, on top of ICS reducing its service fee from 11.5 percent to 10 percent. All these efforts are now deemed moot, according to Torres, including the reduction of the original six-year contract to just six months.

Torres revealed that the corporation's chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta is rebuilding a team of in-house personnel who will take over the supposed function of the ICS through its billing and collection department. A meeting was scheduled between Babauta and the management team yesterday morning to further discuss plans for this department.

Torres said that at this point, the corporation will not seek a new contractor for the billing and collection services of the hospital.

Last week, the corporation also did not renew the six-month contract of chief operating officer Jim Phillips, whom the board earlier described as the contact person for the ICS contract. Torres had expressed dissatisfaction with Phillips' performance, accusing him of not divulging all information and transactions with ICS.

Since they don't have enough existing staff to man the proposed billings and collection department, Torres said the hiring of qualified employees such as coders and billers is on the table and being finalized.

Prior to the ICS contract, CHC hired the services of Guam Marianas Collection Agency to collect "old debt" from patients. Torres could not immediately comment if the GMCA contract is still valid, but pointed out that the company's scope of work was only up to March 2011.

Since taking over the hospital in October last year, the corporation has uncovered $52 million in uncollectibles, mainly due to the late issuance and delivery of medical bills to patients and clients.

Corporation eyes recovery of $37K

Torres told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that a joint investigation was initiated since last week by the OAG in conjunction with the Office of Public Auditor after the discovery of about $37,000 in advanced payments received by ICS, without the knowledge of the board.

Torres said the corporation aims to recoup any "improper" payments made to ICS.

Besides the investigation on ICS, the OAG and OPA are also looking at other contracts and agreements signed by the corporation without the signature of the attorney general, pursuant to law. Among these contracts is the hiring of chief financial officer Alvaro Santos.

Admin's 3-pronged approach to help solve Fund crisis

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) questioned yesterday whether Gov. Benigno R. Fitial can place the NMI Retirement Fund under the Department of Finance when it issues an executive order placing the Fund under a state of emergency. Press secretary Angel Demapan said "yes," adding that the Fitial administration is now just working on the "final touches" to the EO.

There's no telling as of yesterday, however, whether Fitial will wait for the judge's written ruling before placing the Fund under a state of emergency and what the EO would entail.

Demapan cited the administration's three-pronged approach to help address the Fund's crisis: address the active employees in the Fund's defined benefit program, the retirees, and active employees in the defined contribution plan.

"Once the transition to Social Security for active employees currently in the DB plan is complete, the government's employer contribution rate for these employees will be less that the present. Thus, that difference in contribution rate will be significant as the administration intends to shift the additional funds that would result toward sustaining the funds for current retirees receiving their pension," he said.

In essence, the administration, once the goal of getting into Social Security is complete, "does intend to increase the current appropriation of $10 million for those receiving pensions," the press secretary added.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said it's time the administration sits down with the Legislature to protect both retirees and active members.

Manglona reiterated that the House has been sitting on Senate legislative initiatives that will help prolong the Fund's lifespan.

Ramsey, Tiglao lead SCS' Class of 2012

QUINTIN MATTHEW RAMSEY
Valedictorian

MARY GRACE S. TIGLAO
Salutatorian

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The Saipan Community School chose Quintin Matthew Ramsey as this year's 8th grade valedictorian and Mary Grace S. Tiglao as its salutatorian during commencement ceremonies held at the Saipan Community Church on May 24.

Ramsey, the older of two sons of Gary and Karen Ramsey, was also the recipient of the President's Education Award – Gold and the Band Achievement Award for playing alto saxophone in the school band.

The 14-year-old Ramsey gives "a whole lot of credit" to his parents for his academic achievements. "It's really because of them that I got it. They made me do so much to get all my stuff done."

He also acknowledged his teachers because "they are the ones who helped us gain knowledge on subjects they are teaching" as well as other students who "make you have fun, have a good time that you totally forget you're at school sometimes."

Ramsey, who joined Mathcourt and other academic competitions, is also active in sports. He was a member of SCS' basketball, volleyball, and swimming teams and is also the goalkeeper for the Matansa Football Club. Of all the sports, he prefers basketball because it teaches "eye-hand coordination," among others.

Besides being an athlete, Ramsey also serves as referee for U8, U10, and U12 soccer games and recently took his scuba diving certification exam.

Ramsey said he will go on to high school at the Saipan International School and plans to be active in community service. "It [community service] changes who you are," he added.

Ramsey is already thinking about becoming a doctor someday like his father, although he has yet to find out if the field of medicine would fit him best.

He said that getting good grades becomes an advantage by being accepted to more advanced colleges, providing a student with better education and better career.

Tiglao, this year's salutatorian, also received the President's Education Award – Gold. She actively joined competitions during her years at SCS and won fourth place out of 74 school champions during the Scripps Regional Spelling Bee at the Sheraton Laguna Guam Resort on March 3. She won first place in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Patriot's Pen Essay Contest last December and fourth place in its regional contest.

The 13-year old Tiglao also plays the piano and ukulele. She was the only girl among the eight students who played the ukulele for visiting U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor in January.

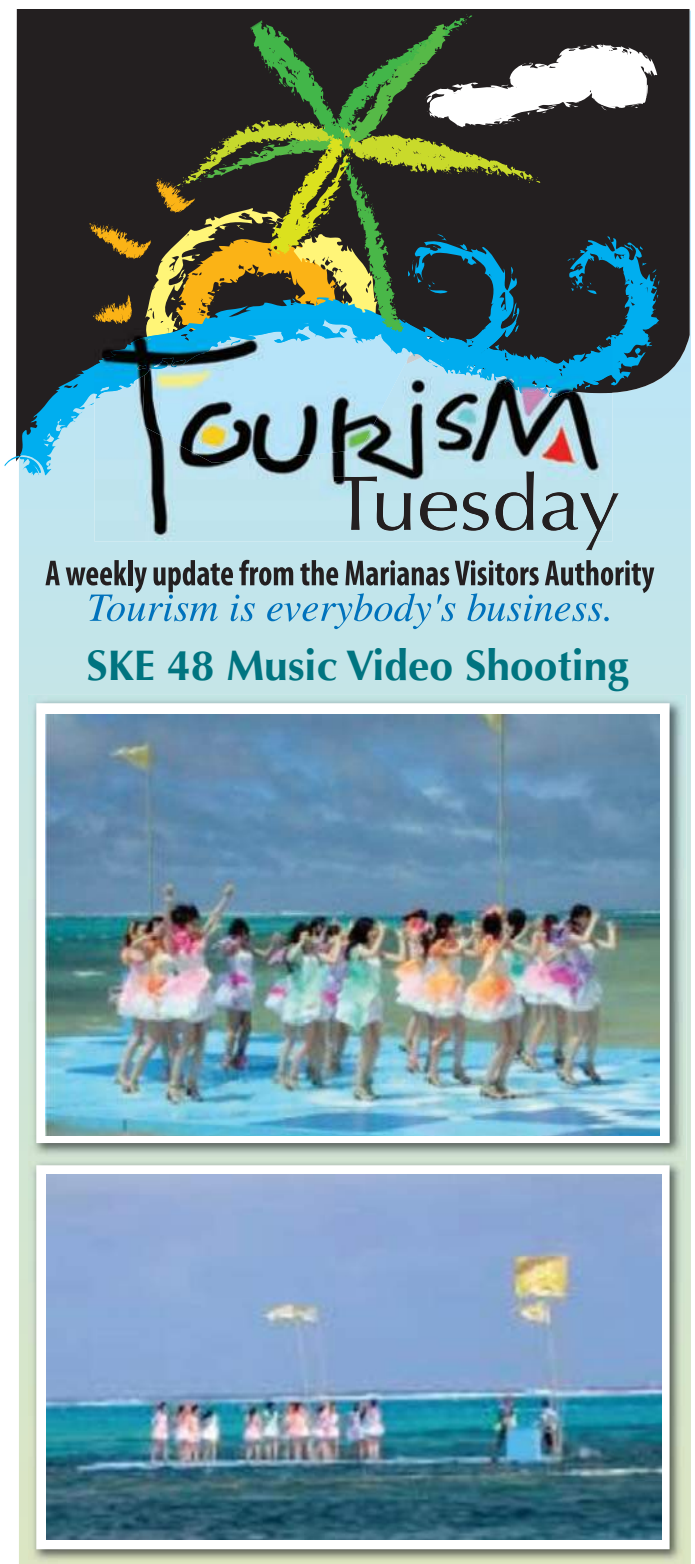
The only child of parents Emil and Aura, Tiglao describes herself as a well-behaved student who always does her schoolwork on time and comes in prepared for class. Besides her own efforts, the young lass acknowledged her parents and teachers for giving her help and guidance.

Tiglao plans to attend Marianas High School for its excellent AP program and to give her the opportunity to join the school's drama club and forensics league team.

Tiglao, who dreams of becoming a doctor, encouraged younger students to try their best and always study hard. "If they failed once, they should use that as inspiration to try to do better next time," she added.

Ramsey and Tiglao were honored along with other graduating 8th graders: Dylan Ackerman, Andy Chang, Jun Pyo Jeon, William Johnson, Hyung Jin Kim, Jameson Kui Lee, Jason Lee, Ji Hoon Lee, Roy Lee, Kelly Lee, Hyun Sung Noh, Gun Woo Shim, Ryu Tanzawa, Exequiel Tenorio, Gregorio Tudela, and Aaron Zhu.

Ramona V. Manglona, U.S. District Court Chief Judge for NMI and Guam, served as the ceremony's keynote speaker.


Tourism
Tuesday
A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.
SKE 48 Music Video Shooting
The Northern Mariana Islands is set to receive $1.3-million in advertising exposure in Japan through recent support given to SKE 48, a girl band that has achieved enormous popularity.
The group filmed a music video in Saipan on March 30-31 for their 19th single, Aishite-LOVE-ru. The Marianas Visitors Authority assisted with securing filming permits and successfully negotiated with the producer to show that the video was shot in Saipan, and not just any beach resort destination.
The group's single was scheduled for release in May 2012.
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CUC owed $21.7M by customers; $45.2M collected since Oct. 2011

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

To date, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has about $21.7 million in total collectibles from customers, including government and private entities.

CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren disclosed yesterday that the bulk of the amount are receivables from the agency's three biggest customers: the central government, the Commonwealth Health Center, and the Public School System. Together the three owe CUC a total of $9.3 million as of yesterday.

As of May 21, about $12.4 million is also owed by other classes of customers, Warren said.

CUC records show that residential customers owe CUC $8.6 million as of last month while commercial customers account for $3.8 million. Both figures are net of disputed amounts.

Since the start of the fiscal year in October last year through March this year, CUC also collected $45.2 million but Warren emphasized that this amount may change as the agency updates its financial records with April data.

"As for collections for this fiscal year, commercial and residential accounts have both paid over 100 percent of billings, due to aggressive collection of older, prior year receivables. The CNMI government accounts have paid about 63 percent of billings," he said.

Meantime, Warren disclosed that CUC did not adopt a position on the bankruptcy petition earlier filed by the NMI Retirement Fund that was dismissed last week. But with the denial of the bankruptcy petition, he said the lawsuit between the Fund and CUC remains ongoing. "The lawsuit is still in progress. Now that the Fund's bankruptcy petition has been denied, our case should be back in Judge [Kenneth] Govendo's court."

Warren said that CUC disagrees with the figures the Retirement Fund claims it owes in employer contributions. "Basically, CUC feels its obligation to the Fund is about $1.4 million. The Funds thinks it is closer to $4 million," he said.

The Fund is suing the utilities corporation and is demanding payment of $4.44 million, including penalties and damages. It said that CUC is delinquent in contributions by $3.1 million as of April 2011 and seek a penalty amounting to $740,462 through the end of fiscal year 2010 and economic damages amounting to $527,716. The Fund also wants the court to declare that CUC's attempt to pass on its obligation to the central government is fraudulent and void.

CUC later came up with settlement proposal using different calculations of the owed amount, citing various laws enacted in previous years. Negotiations between the two agencies has so far failed.

WELCOME HOME! GUNG/CPT KEN OLA
Staff Sgt. Clint Rosario is greeted by his spouse on his arrival at the A.B. Won Pat International Airport in Guam. Rosario was one of over 600 soldiers returning to Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands after combat training at Camp Roberts, Calif.

Water company OK'd to move to bigger space in San Antonio

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The Zoning Board unanimously approved yesterday the conditional use application of a company that seeks to set up a water business in San Antonio.

GD Corp., which does business as Twinkle Brite Water Co., will be allowed to operate a manufacturing and processing facility for its drinking water bottling and retail trade on a lot in Afetna.

The property, which can be accessed via Afetna and Beach roads, is located in a mixed commercial zoning district. GD Corp. proposes to renovate the dilapidated building where it will move in.

The Zoning Office recommended the application's approval, provided that GD Corp. will not park its water delivery trucks in front of the building when loading water at any time; it will not park any vehicles or delivery truck in the public right-of-way; it will employ landscaping where necessary to screen the parking lots, service areas, storage facilities or trash bins from public view; it will comply with requirement set by the Division of Environmental Quality for stormwater management and use measures to prevent any flooding in the parking areas and right-of-way; and it will submit a sign permit application before putting up any.

Angelito Galang of Twinkle Brite Water Co. said their business is an existing one located across Hopwood Jr. High School in Chalan Piao.

"What we're planning is to put on a bigger space so our customers can access us, walk in and buy cheap water from us," he said. A 5-gallon water container, when bought directly from the company, is only $1.25.

According to Galang, Twinkle Brite Water Co. currently serves about 600 to 700 customers on island from an initial customer base of some 50 to 70. He revealed that they supply water to Koblerville Elementary School, Marianas High School, and Eucon School.

Galang said they use water provided by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. The water is processed using reverse osmosis and is further treated.

Their drinking water, Galang said, is certified by MWH, a water testing laboratory in California, and is also regularly tested by the Division of Environmental Quality and Quality Water company "that's why I assure that our water is good for the community."

Legal counsel Kate Fuller asked Galang if there is any part of their process that creates noise, to which he replied that the company's current facility in Chalan Piao is actually located in a residential area.

"It's indoor and it's closed," Galang added. "It's not allowed to be open because of the bacteria. It's always closed."

Galang also pointed out that they already renovated the surroundings of the existing property in Afetna and that the Department of Public Works already gave them a permit to renovate the dilapidated building.

He assured the board that their company will maintain the building and the surrounding area, owing to the "strict" regulations by DEQ for water companies.

Except for board treasurer Alice S. Igitol, who was excused from attending the meeting, the other four board members voted to approve the application.

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Suspect in burglary at troops' store identified

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Police have already identified the suspect in the burglary at the U.S. Army Reserve Center's troop store in Puerto Rico, Saipan, *Saipan Tribune* learned yesterday.

Sources at the Department of Public Safety disclosed that a Superior Court judge has already issued a warrant for the arrest of the suspect on charges of burglary, theft, and criminal mischief.

In issuing the arrest warrant, the judge imposed an $11,250 cash bail, sources said.

Sources said the suspect was also arrested in 2011 after a surveillance camera caught him and another companion in the act of stealing some flat screen TV sets and other items from an establishment.

Saipan Tribune is opting not to divulge the suspect's identity until there is police confirmation that he has already been served with the arrest warrant.

The U.S. Army Reserve Center's troop store was burglarized on May 30 and the suspect was caught on surveillance camera committing the crime.

Reported stolen were a 32-inch Panasonic LCD flat screen TV, HP 201 monitors, and Bose portable music systems, all estimated to cost over $1,500.

Police described the suspect as a light-skinned male, in his mid-20's to early 30s, about 5'7" to 5'10" tall, 170 to 180 lbs in weight, and with a mustache and goatee.

Police investigation showed that the suspect used a bolt cutter to cut the padlock on a shipping container used as a storage room of the troop store.

SENATE

From Page 1

considered a person of Northern Marianas descent and therefore can own land in the CNMI.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said yesterday that the Senate also incorporates in House Legislative Initiative 17-3, House Draft 1 the increase in the maximum 55-year private land lease to 99 years, changing the definition of NMD corporation, and in ensuring that an adopted child will not necessarily be considered 100 percent NMD.

"Yes, the Senate will act on this initiative. I just wish we could have had people to decide on the repeal of Article 12. I guess changing the blood quantum requirement is the next best thing to a repealer," Manglona told *Saipan Tribune.*

Article 12 of the NMI Constitution restricts landownership to persons of Northern Marianas descent or NMDs.

As it is now, future generations of Chamorro and Carolinian families may not be able to own land because they fall below the 25 percent blood quantum requirement, an "unfair" requirement to many in the community who want to pass on their property to their descendants.

The Senate killed last month Manglona's legislative initiative that would have asked voters whether they want Article 12 repealed or retained. Senators who voted against it said they don't want to repeal Article 12 in its entirety but only some portions of it, including the blood quantum requirement.

The Senate will be rescheduling for next week its session set for Wednesday.

Manglona said the Senate has placed the initiative on calendar even before the Citizens for Change of Article 12 announced that they are now looking at placing the question of Article 12 on the November 2014 general election ballot, and not on the Nov. 6 midterm election ballot.

Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) said HLI 17-3 has been with a Senate committee "for quite a while now."

"If they want the people to make an educated decision on the issue of Article 12 and blood quantum, they should pass that initiative now so that it will be placed on the ballot and the Election Commission will be prepared to conduct public education on it," Deleon Guerrero said.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan) separately said he "strongly urges the Senate to pass" the initiative on blood quantum.

Former speaker Pedro Deleon Guerrero said Article 12 should not be repealed in its entirety, but its blood quantum requirement should be amended. He said he himself has a child that married a non-NMD, so the blood percentage of their children would decrease and they may not be able to own land if they fall below the 25 percent blood requirement.

"I have a good feeling that it will pass the Senate. It's a reasonable amendment to Article 12," he said.

Both supporters and opponents of a repeal of Article 12 use the phrase "for the protection of NMDs" to argue their point.

The Citizens for Change of Article 12 said that current NMDs are already losing their land because of the blood quantum requirement, and future generations will lose their right to own or inherit land from their parents if blood quantum continues to be diluted.

"So how is Article 12 protecting an NMD that is less than 25 percent bloodline?" CCART 12 asked, referring to many NMDs marrying outside the Chamorro/Carolinian bloodline and whose children will not be able to own lands passed on to them by their parents and ancestors.

Casino initiative

Proponents of a popular initiative seeking to legalize casino gambling on Saipan are also having difficulty gathering signatures to place the question on the Nov. 6 ballot.

Dr. Jack Angello said they have so far gathered some 1,000 signatures, which is still far from the required 2,500 or so signatures from Saipan voters.

Angello said they will be submitting the signatures to the OAG on Thursday, a day before the June 8 deadline. That's because June 8 is an austerity Friday.

He said the group would have the exact number of signatures today when their supporters turn in their signature packets.

Angello said they will be gathering signatures for the casino petition again tomorrow, Tuesday, at 5pm at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.

"If people are really concerned about the economy, I hope they support and sign the petition. I hope people see that it's now crunch time," he said.

Angello said they are not giving up hope that the casino petition will gather more signatures between now and Thursday.

EX-CUC

From Page 1

ro with a warrant on charges of sexual assault of a minor, indecent exposure, and disturbing the peace.

Guerrero was taken to the Superior Court yesterday afternoon for his initial appearance. He was represented by attorney Brien Sers Nicholas. Chief prosecutor Peter B. Prestley represented the government.

Nicholas said they are preparing the necessary papers to post a property bond for the his client's temporary release.

Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo retained the bail amount at $25,750 cash and set a bail hearing for today, Tuesday, at 4pm.

Police detective Jesse K. Seman stated in his report that the police investigation started on Friday afternoon after a Division of Youth Services staff contacted the Department of Public Safety and reported a case of sexual abuse of a minor.

Seman and another detective proceeded to DYS where they interviewed the girl in the presence of her mother and a DYS staff.

Seman said that, according to the girl, Guerrero first sexually abused her when she was in ninth grade and that five other incidents happened after that. The latest was on May 25, 2012. The girl said she did not tell anyone because she was afraid and confused as to what would happen.

The girl said the worst abuse happened during the mid-part of this year when Guerrero brought her to the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi where he fondled himself and touched her privates.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial recently appointed Guerrero to the Marianas Public Land Trust board. The Senate has yet to confirm his nomination.

FAKE BILLS

From Page 1

based paper used in real bills, no discoloration occurs.

Peterson said if starch is covered, for example, then the pen is unable to detect starch. Moreover, a genuine $5 bill that is tampered with and made into a $100 bill can pass a pen test because it is made from fiber-based paper but not other types of tests.

Peterson said there are other tools such as handheld black light that could also help detect counterfeit dollar bills.

"Black light is a very good tool," he added.

Inkjet printers, he said, have made it easy to produce counterfeit bills but they are easier to detect, compared to those using the more sophisticated offset printer.

"Inkjet you can make anywhere so whether it's Guam, Saipan, anywhere it's very simple to print but we haven't had an actual suspect arrested. … Saipan hasn't been that bad, although there is history here for passing [counterfeit bills]," he said.

Peterson, from the U.S. Secret Service-Guam resident office that has jurisdiction over Guam, the CNMI, the Philippines, Tahiti, Fiji, and nearby areas, was the presenter at yesterday afternoon's Chamber of Commerce credit card and currency training session.

In the CNMI, there's about $1,000 worth of counterfeit dollar bills reported in a year, he said, and this include a few $100 bills and smaller $20 bills.

Richard Pierce, executive director of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said that Peterson's visit was precipitated by a number of incidents recently where counterfeit currency was seized in Guam and on Saipan.

Peterson passed around counterfeit bills to those who attended the session, including fake $1,000 bills that were suspected to be made in Asian countries.

"When you look at this $100 bill, you see Benjamin Franklin but the water mark is Abraham Lincoln, and this will pass the pen test 100 percent of the time. You know why? What color is this supposed to glow? $100 is supposed to glow red," he said.

Peterson discussed technical details of what to look for, as well as the history of U.S. currency, the laws, and how to report them, as well as examples of cases involving counterfeit bills.

"We've arrested people who said they got it from an ATM machine. [That's] a hundred percent lie. The banks will run it through a machine first [to determine whether they're genuine] and we go back to the person and we ask which bank is it. And their story keeps changing," he said.

Zeny Agda, a Saipan Stevedore accountant for 17 years, said the Secret Service presentation gave those like her a lot of information about counterfeit bills.

"But luckily, our company or at least my department has not encountered fake bills because we mostly accept checks," said Agda, one of those who attended the Chamber-sponsored presentation.

Jim Arenovski, president of Delta Management Corp., which owns Shell service stations in Guam and Saipan, said his company has "pretty strict procedures" but he said it's always good to have this kind of presentation by the Secret Service.

"It's also nice to know that there's new $100 bills coming out…I didn't know about the different colors on the black light. (For example, red for $100 bills) We usually look at the three that are inherent in the bill—the color changing ink, the strip and the watermark, three things that we use to teach our staff in the retail business. Now there's one more tool you can use, a black light and see the different colors," he added.

Peterson also gave presentation on credit card fraud and how to protect oneself from fraud. More than 10,000 credit card transactions are made every second around the world.

Credit card fraud cost banks about $1 billion annually.

FUND

From Page 1

"Dissolving the board and transferring the functions of the Fund to the Department of Finance does not fix the under-funding problem nor will it protect the benefits of the members. The idea of changing an entity's legal structure as being the solution to a problem is the same story over again, and it doesn't work unless the problem itself is structural," he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

In reality, this might be little more than a distraction to take the focus off of the real problem, he added.

Villagomez also cited the operations of the Fund, where he is in charge of day-to-day operations. He described it as a complex system that requires full-time operation. Cutting checks, for example, is just a fraction of what they do, though it requires extreme attention to detail.

"When managing the payment of millions of dollars, you must have checks-and-balance systems in place to maximize accuracy and minimize risks," he said.

Examples of checks-and-balance systems in place include document management, accounting systems, data processing and file maintenance, in-house legal counsels, outside counsels, investment consulting firm, actuarial firm, and administrative appeals process for members.

If the program's dissolution or transfer pushes though, "who will maintain the accounting ledgers, process retirement applications, survivors' benefits, refunds, audit the files to ensure beneficiaries are getting what they are entitled to? What will happen to the members' rights to an administrative appeals process and who will hear these cases? Who will provide the legal advice and take legal action to protect the trust?"

Skeleton crew

According to Villagomez, the Fund is operating on a skeleton crew and has been doing so for several years now to minimize costs.

"We've managed to maintain personnel who are dedicated professionals committed to continue providing services that directly benefit our members. Very few people want to work at the Fund because the pressure is high and constant everyday," he revealed.

He also pointed out the need for highly qualified investment consultants to provide advice on how and where it is most appropriate to invest tens of millions of dollars. The same goes in hiring an actuary who will audit and document the obligations to members and determine the amount of money needed to meet current and future obligations.

"My point is, it takes a whole team that is dedicated to manage the parts of the Fund and that team must be maintained for operations to function," he added.

Dismissal disappointing

The court's dismissal of the Fund's bankruptcy petition was "very disappointing," he said, but he praised Judge Robert Faris for candidly sharing his views on the Fund's situation.

The judge, in his words, stated that "the dismissal was not a victory for anyone, but a disaster." The judge's description of the Commonwealth's "shameful" treatment of the Fund and its members "cannot be overstated."

When asked if they plan to appeal the court's decision, Villagomez said the Fund is "weighing its options on how to best protect the Fund and its members."

The administrator also expressed disappointment with some people whom he described as "giving false hopes" to Fund members. Many of the ideas being tossed around to help the pension program require a change in the law, he said, but most of all a change in attitude among those in positions of authority.

"Many of the ideas we've proposed have met resistance at every turn," he disclosed.

Zoning Board welcomes new employees

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Zoning Board officially welcomed two new employees of the Zoning Office during its meeting yesterday.

Zoning officer Jocelyn Aldan-Kapileo started her employment on May 7, while Verna Markub Babauta began serving as administrative assistant also yesterday.

Aldan-Kapileo formerly worked with the Department of Public Lands, having served as resident compliance officer stationed in Pagan from August to November 2006 after which she was transferred to the Planning Division as administrative assistant until August 2010.

She described her work at Zoning as "more challenging" and looks forward to getting familiarized with the zoning law to help her perform her duties and responsibilities as Zoning officer.

"We all need to understand the importance of the zoning law," she told *Saipan Tribune*. "The Zoning Office is here to enforce the law to make the island of Saipan the best that it could be."

Babauta, on the other hand, has worked in the private sector for over 30 years. Working as administrative assistant for the Zoning Office is her first job in the government. She also volunteered at the Garapan Community Development Center in between jobs.

According to Babauta, it will be a "huge challenge" to go back to work again but she is "excited and happy" to be on board the Zoning Office.

"I look forward to dealing with zoning issues now that I'm part of the office," added Babauta.

Zoning administrator Therese T. Ogumoro introduced the two new staff to the board, saying that they are "very ready to learn and can't wait to do what they're supposed to do."

Board member Herman P. Sablan noted the need to send Zoning staff off-island for professional development which can be funded through federal grants.

Although no off-island trainings are available at the moment, Ogumoro said it will be a "priority."

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Jocelyn Aldan-Kapileo, left, and Verna Markub Babauta recently joined the Zoning Office as Zoning officer and administrative assistant, respectively.

TOP OF THE CLASS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Calvary Christian Academy valedictorian Midori Nishida is flanked by parents Tomohiko and Victoria and younger brother Yuuki after the graduation ceremony held at the school auditorium last Friday.

2 brothers in trial for chasing persons who beat up their 70-year-old father

A bench trial began yesterday for two brothers who chased the persons who beat up their 70-year-old father during a vehicular accident in Dandan.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho presided over the bench trial of Ernie Matagolai Dejillas and Yonnie Matagolai Dejillas.

Prosecutors Darren Robinson and Nicole Driscoll started calling in the government's witnesses.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom in the afternoon, the prosecutors were still examining a woman, who testified she saw the beating of the old man and the arrival of the Dejillas brothers at the scene.

Attorneys Joe Hill and Loren Sutton are counsels for the Dejillas brothers.

Detective Raymond B. Borja then stated in his report that during the same incident, Ernie Dejillas chased Jerome Norita with a machete, while Yonnie Dejillas tried to run over Jerome Norita's father, Juan Norita.

Juan and Jerome Norita were arrested shortly after the incident.

Juan and Jerome Norita and another man allegedly beat up the 70-year-old Pantaleon P. De Jillas and his son, Ernie De Jillas, along Flame Tree Road in Dandan on Dec. 2, 2011 at 7:19am.

OAG said Pantaleon De Jillas had just been involved in an accident and had stopped to render aid to a girl that he struck with his pick-up truck.

Juan and Jerome Norita came and started punching and kicking the old man.

As Ernie De Jillas approached to help his father, the defendants allegedly began hurling pieces of cinder block at him. One piece of the cinder block struck Ernie De Jillas in the ear.

Subsequent police investigation, however, showed that brothers De Jillas also attacked Juan and Jerome Norita.

Last month, Jerome Norita and Juan Norita pleaded guilty to assault and battery.

Presiding Judge Robert Naraja sentenced the Noritas to six months in jail, all suspended except 30 days for Jerome Norita and 12 days for Juan Norita.

Jerome Norita was given credit for seven days time already served, while Juan Norita was given credit for 12 days he already served in prison. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Philippine Independence Day
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• Camera & Camcorder
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Korean, local groups to stage festival concerts

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» 150 musicians to perform award winning pieces
» Manta Band still short of $90K for London trip

Over 100 musicians from two local bands and a band from South Korea will perform in a couple of concerts beginning this week, led by the Saipan Southern High School Manta Band, which is busy preparing for its upcoming trip to the 2012 London Olympics.

The musical celebration will kick off Friday at Koblerville Elementary School with the Saipan Pacific Wind Concert Band, under the direction of Will DeWitt and Christine Nierras, presenting its 18th Annual Spring Concert on June 8. Admission is free but there is a nominal charge for food and beverages, which will be on sale. The show begins at 6:30pm.

According to DeWitt, this will be an opportunity for music lovers to kick off their weekend.

The Pacific Winds is a nonprofit community organization composed of adult and student members that perform six to eight times a year in support of civic, holiday, and other local artistic endeavors. They have also performed at the Tumon Bay Music Festival, where they earned the gold award in the open division for bands in 2011.

On Friday, the 30-piece ensemble will perform their entire 2012 repertoire, including favorites such as *Buglers Holiday*, *King Cotton*, and music from several Hollywood blockbusters (*Jaws*, *E.T.*, *A Bug's Life*, *Star Wars*, *Forest Gump*, *Indiana Jones*, and more).

The band will also debut a major programmatic work from Japan titled *The 7th Night of July*, which depicts a cosmic love story.

On June 18, three award-winning ensembles will share the stage at the American Memorial Park for a festival concert that promises to be a landmark musical event featuring the collaboration of 150 musicians from two countries.

The Saipan Pacific Winds Concert Band, Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Concert Band, and Hwasun School Brass Band from Korea will present a two-hour musical program. The show starts at 6:30pm.

DeWitt, who is also the musical conductor and director for the Manta Ray Band, said the playlist includes a wide array of styles and genres. Featured pieces are Jersey Boys; Earth, Wind, and Fire; John Williams' movie music; Sousa marches; music by Quincy Jones; Michael Jackson; classical favorites like Dvorak's *New World Symphony*; *Mr. Holland's Opus*; and the debut performance of a commissioned work for Saipan by Japanese composer Daiki Kato titled *Mariana Variations*, a concert march based on the CNMI anthem.

This event is also a fundraiser for the Manta Band's performance tour in the Summer Olympics, with all proceeds going to support their historic trip to London.

Tickets are available at the P'Art School of Music, Brabu Pharmacy, and from SSHS Main Office (664-4000). Adults are $20, students $15 (high school and younger). Pre-purchase of tickets is highly encouraged as the event is expected to draw a capacity audience.

DeWitt encourages community members to consider sponsoring a ticket for someone who would like to go on their behalf. He revealed that the Manta Band needs to raise $90,000 more to reach their total goal of $250,000.

COMMENDATION FROM CONGRESS
CNMI U.S. Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan presents a certificate of commendation to Saipan Seventh-day Adventist School principal Michael Berglund during a program commemorating the school's 30th anniversary last Friday. Saipan SDA School has been providing Adventist education to students on island in its San Antonio and San Jose campuses.
CLARISSA V. DAVID

Teenager arrested for allegedly breaking into girl's house

A teenager was arrested on Friday afternoon for allegedly breaking into a house in Chalan Laulau last month.

Alonzo U. Pedro, 18, was taken to the Superior Court yesterday morning for his initial appearance on charges of burglary, and disturbing the peace.

Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo imposed a $2,500 cash bail for Pedro's temporary release.

Preliminary hearing will be on June 13 at 9am.

Detective Alexander Sakisat stated in his report that a police officer responded to a reported burglary and disturbance at a residence in Chalan Laulau last May 20 at 3:37am.

Sakisat said he and another detective conducted further investigation last May 28 and interviewed a female juvenile.

Sakisat said according to the girl, at 3:30am of May 20 she was in her bedroom preparing to sleep when she noticed someone opened the door to her bedroom and closed it again.

When the door opened again, the girl noticed a male she identified as Pedro. She woke up her juvenile boyfriend and told him that someone was inside the house.

The boyfriend got up to check on the person. He then saw Pedro peeking into the hallway from the living room area.

The boyfriend chased Pedro, who jumped out of the living room window. The burglar ran to a jungle area that headed to a direction where a wedding party was held at the time. The boyfriend stopped the chase after he noticed a police vehicle on the main road where he then flagged down the officers.

Sakisat said another juvenile witness stated that he brought Pedro from the wedding party to the girl's residence where he introduced Pedro to the family.

The juvenile said after they were done he and Pedro returned back to the party.

Later that evening, the witness saw Pedro entering the jungle and was gone for a while. Pedro later came back, breathing hard.

Pedro took off his shirt at the back of the house where the party was taking his place and placed his shirt behind a table and a chair. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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The Mariana Islands Nature Alliance would like to extend our "THANK YOU" to all our sponsors and volunteers for making our Green Gala a successful event.
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Free grazing and livestock management workshops

The Northern Marianas College's Marianas Grazing and Livestock Academy will host workshops on June 22-23, 2012, on Saipan.

The workshops will take place in Room A-13 at the NMC As Terlaje campus. Registration begins at 8am with instructional activities to follow until 4pm on June 22 and until 1:30pm on June 23, 2012.

The MGA workshops are intended to help local livestock producers and land managers become better equipped to manage their animals and resources by providing classroom instruction and field experience in sustainable grazing and livestock management practices.

The workshops will cover various topics such as value-added product development/processing, marketing and cost of production, low stress animal handling and facility design, livestock health, and much more. The workshops will also include ranch visits, demonstration sites, and field activities.

Those interested in attending these workshops may register by contacting Joaquin Deleon Guerrero at NMC-CREES at 234-5498 Ext. 1707 or at joaquing@nmcnet.edu by June 21, 2012. There is no fee to attend these workshops.

The academy is a project organized through a collaborative effort between the Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service's Livestock Improvement Program and experienced pasture, livestock, and soil specialists from the University of Hawaii, University of the Virgin Islands, and the University of Guam.

The goal of the academy is to enhance the production of high quality meat products that can serve to improve food sustainability through the adoption of appropriate technologies and practices in grazing and livestock management.

The academy also seeks to provide local farmers, ranchers, technical resource personnel, and other interagency collaborators with assistance and guidance in planning and developing local projects to improve the economic viability of grazing activities in the CNMI.

For additional information on the Marianas Grazing Academy, visit marianasgrazingacademy.org.

The Marianas Grazing Academy project is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Outreach for Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers program (Grant #59-2501-10-040-1). *(NMC)*

Battle of Midway remembered today

SANTA RITA, Guam—Joint Region Marianas will hold a ceremony commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Midway today, June 5, at 9am at the War in the Pacific National Historical Park Asan Beach. The public is invited to attend.

The ceremony will feature remarks by Rear Adm. Paul Bushong, commander of Joint Region Marianas, a wreath-laying, music by the 721st Army Band, and static displays.

Guests will get a closer look at military vehicles, watercrafts, heavy equipment, and presentations courtesy of U.S. Naval Base Guam Security, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 40, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam and the National Park Service. Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 will also have a Knighthawk helicopter at the event. The static displays will be on site until noon.

The Battle of Midway, fought June 4-6, 1942, near the Central Pacific island of Midway, is considered the decisive battle of the war in the Pacific. Before this battle, the Japanese were on the offensive, capturing territory throughout Asia and the Pacific. By their attack, the Japanese had planned to capture Midway to use as an advance base, as well as to entrap and destroy the U.S. Pacific Fleet. Because of communication intelligence successes, the U.S. Pacific Fleet surprised the Japanese forces, sinking the four Japanese carriers that had attacked Pearl Harbor only six months before, while only losing one carrier. After Midway, the Americans and their allies took the offensive in the Pacific. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Wishing our boy, Jode T. Reyes, a happy, happy birthday as he turns 11 years old today. We continue to pray and ask the Lord to guide you each and every day and bless you with many, many more blessed years to come. We also congratulate you for all your great achievements and accomplishments in school! We are so proud of you, keep up the great work! Greetings come from Mom, Dad, your brothers, and Grandma.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday, Tan Kindu Aguon! Wishing you the best on your special day with many, many more blessed and happy years to come. Greetings come from Paul and the families.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mayor seeks to boost agricultural ties of NMI, Guam

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Strengthening the agriculture industries of the CNMI and Guam will promote food sustainability and improve the economies of both island communities, according to Sinajana Mayor Roke B. Blas of Guam.

Blas, who was recently on island to support the 29th Saipan Agricultural Fair, noted the importance of farming for island jurisdictions as shipping costs for imported produce continue to increase.

"With our economy now, the agriculture industry will help our farmers become sustainable so they can live off their lands," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Importing and exporting restrictions between the CNMI and Guam, however, hold back the island jurisdictions from exchanging produce due to the issue of invasive species but Blas said it's a problem that can be addressed by helping each other come up with a solution.

Blas

According to him, having CNMI and Guam farmers come together and work with the Association of Mariana Islands Mayors and Municipal Councils can reinforce the agriculture industries of the islands by having a unified body or an "island association" to work with the federal government in supplying produce for the U.S. military forces in Guam.

Once the "island association" is already in position, the Marianas will be able to solidify its force in the region and would even draw the interest of neighboring countries such as Japan, Korea, and the Philippines to join the group.

Blas disclosed that Guam is working to revive its farmers' cooperative, which, along with the AMIMM's support, will be a step in the right direction toward achieving the goal of a stronger agriculture industry for the Marianas.

"This is our culture, our heritage so we need to bring it forward and continue with it," he added.

Since the CNMI does not have an established farmers' cooperative, Blas said they can help set one up for the Commonwealth.

Blas lauded the Saipan Sabalu Farmers Market Association for its weekly marketplace where local produce is sold. In Guam, he said, they only have open markets for clothing and arts and crafts but not locally grown crops.

"This is great work," said Blas. "I wish that this will rub on to some of our people again because a lot of outsiders are coming in to make a killing and make money. This is what we're here for, to live off the land."

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Delta launches SkyMiles promo in Guam, Saipan

Delta Air Lines launched yesterday a special promotion offering upgrades to BusinessElite and double miles when purchasing tickets on Delta flights from Guam or Saipan to mainland U.S. destinations using the Bank of Guam SkyMiles Visa Credit Card.

Reservations and purchases should be made through the Guam or Saipan Airport Ticket Office or through local Guam or Saipan travel agents by June 30, 2012. Outbound travel must commence between June 1 and Aug. 31, 2012. Return travel must be complete by Sept. 30, 2012.

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Details, terms and conditions are available at bankofguam.com/promotions.html. Customers interested in applying for or learning more about the Bank of Guam® SkyMiles Visa Credit Cards may visit bankofguam.com or call the Bank of Guam hotline at (671) 472-5300.

Delta operates five daily flights from Guam to the U.S. via Narita, Kansai and Nagoya and three daily flights from Saipan to the U.S. via Narita. ***(Delta)***

Triple J Motors donates hole-in-one prize for NMC Foundation Open

NMC

Northern Marianas College students and staff members take time to pose for a group photo after receiving a Hyundai Accent as a hole-in-one prize from Triple J Motors for the upcoming 10th Annual NMC Foundation Open golf tournament.

In support of the Northern Marianas College's educational programs and services, Triple J Motors is sponsoring a hole-in-one prize for the upcoming 10th Annual NMC Foundation Open golf tournament. The lucky player who makes a hole-in-one at the Saipan LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort's (West Course) Hole No. 17 will win a brand new 2012 Hyundai Accent.

"Triple J Motors is happy to support such a worthy cause," said Triple J Motors sales manager Ben Lizama. "We hope that this will contribute to the success of the NMC Foundation's golf tournament."

The prize sponsorship was presented in support of the NMC Foundation's mission to raise funds for NMC's educational programs and services. The golf tournament is the organization's signature event.

"The NMC Foundation would like to thank Triple J Motors for its sponsorship," said NMC Foundation president Ivan Quichocho. "Having the Hyundai Accent as a hole-in-one prize will definitely make the tournament more exciting for the golfers."

The 10th Annual NMC Foundation Open golf tournament will be held at the Saipan LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort (West Course) on Saturday, June 30, 2012 with a shotgun start at 7am and will follow a medal play format. There will be six separate flight categories: Championship, A, B, C, seniors, and ladies. The entrance fee is $95 per player.

Registration forms for the golf tournament can be downloaded from www.nmcnet.edu, or picked up at the at Marianas Country Club, Saipan Country Club, Dandan Golf Range, Kingfisher Golf Links, Coral Ocean Point, and All Star Sporting Goods. Payments for the registration fee can be made at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, Triple J Motors, and the NMC Cashier.

In addition, tournament prizes for first place for each of the six flights include cash and roundtrip tickets to various destinations in Micronesia and Asia on United Airlines.

For more information on how to donate to the NMC Foundation or to register to play, log on to www.nmcnet.edu or call 234-5498 ext. 1050. ***(NMC)***

AWARDS DAY CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joshua Elija Pajarillaga, left, Arvin Dayao, center, and Jim Michael Ham pose with their trophies and medals during Grace Christian Academy's Awards Day, held yesterday at the school auditorium. Thank you to teachers Lindsey Thompson and Joshua Zwicker for their love and hard work.

Renewal of alcohol license being accepted

The Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control Division is reminding all licensed business establishments that applications for Alcoholic Beverage Control license renewals are now being accepted.

Application forms may be obtained at the Department of Commerce located at the Donni Hill Complex, Capital Hill Road, Pohnpei Street. All licensed businesses in Rota and Tinian may pick up application forms from the resident department head at the Department of Commerce on Rota and Tinian. Application forms are also available online and may be downloaded at www.commerce.gov.mp.

The deadline for filing of renewal applications, including payment of fees, is June 30, 2012. All licensees whose renewal fees remain unpaid as of June 30, 2012, will automatically be suspended. Licenses that remain suspended as of July 31, 2012, due to unpaid renewal fees will automatically be revoked and the Secretary of Commerce shall not issue a renewal license. If a license still remains revoked as of July 31, 2012, a new application must be submitted for consideration by the Secretary of Commerce.

Application forms are available online at www.commerce.gov.mp or from the Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control Division anytime between 8:30am and 4:30pm, Monday to Thursday except austerity Fridays, weekends, and legal holidays. For more information, call the ABTC Division at 664-3065. ***(Office of the Governor)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 5, 2000

Govt recognizes OFWs contributions

With Filipinos accounting for the biggest number of foreign workers in several business sectors in the Northern Marianas, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio on Friday recognized the ethnic group's significant contributions to the growth of the local economy. Tenorio displayed the Commonwealth government's high regard of the Filipinos' assistance in fostering economic and social development on the island by declaring June 5-12, 2000 as the CNMI-Philippines Friendship Week. The governor signed the proclamation Friday morning in light of the celebration of the Philippines' 102nd Independence Day.

BOR adopts CNMI travel policy

Effective last Friday, traveling Northern Marianas College staff and officials will adhere to the general CNMI Travel Policy which provides for per diem travel allowance granted in cash dependent on occupancy and travel rates at the country or area of destination. The NMC Board of Regents has acted on the initiative in light of certain "bad experiences" NMC staff and officials have encountered in several of their off-island business trips under its own travel policy. The old policy allowed the college administration discretion on where to house NMC official delegates to particular off-island functions. According to NMC Director for Finance and Administration Services Alvaro Santos, employees often had problems with purchase orders and college checks, which apparently are not being honored by most mainland hotels and other business establishments.

June 5, 2001

Customs seize 238 lbs. of illegal medicine

The Division of Customs seized a total of 238 lbs. of illegal medicine from people entering the CNMI last month, according to Customs Airport Branch Supervisor Lieutenant Bill Lifoifoi. The volume represents a 6.25 percent increase from the 224 lbs. of non-English labeled pharmaceuticals confiscated in the previous month of April. Under Pubic Law 11-40, non-English labeled drugs are prohibited from entering the Commonwealth. Like previous months, about 90 percent of the confiscated items were from Chinese nationals. The other 10 percent are evenly split between Filipino and Korean nationals. Lifoifoi said the higher figure in illegal medicine coming into the CNMI last month could be attributed to more nonresident workers coming to the Northern Marianas.

Governor addresses stateless kids

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio assured Philippine Consulate General officials that moves are underway to resolve problems of more than 350 stateless children in the Northern Marianas. Tenorio told Consulate officials that the Legislature is carefully reviewing the problem as legislation seeks to help these children is underway. Consul General Julia Heidemann raised the issue during a recent meeting with Tenorio in preparations for the celebration of the 103rd Philippine Independence. Heidemann told the governor that problems on stateless children still reach the Consulate and inquiries of recent developments continue.

June 5, 2002

New law may mean less funds for DPS

The new law banning police officers from confiscating the driver's license of traffic violators could spell lost revenues for the Department of Public Safety, a DPS official said yesterday. Lt. Pete C. Muña yesterday aired his personal sentiment over Public Law 13-6, explaining that visiting or tourist drivers cited for traffic violations may not have enough motivation to pay their traffic tickets before leaving the CNMI since their driver's licenses will not be seized from them. "This could mean lost revenues. Visitors from Guam, FSM [and other places] who are cited here could easily leave without paying for the ticket since their licenses will be returned to them [right away]," said Muña.

CPA finalizes airport security projects

The Commonwealth Ports Authority will submit this week the final version of its CNMI airport security project to the Federal Aviation Administration. Executive Director Carlos H. Salas left Monday for Honolulu to attend a meeting with Airport District Office Manager Ronnie V. Simpson. The two would be discussing proposed airport security projects that will be submitted to the FAA Regional Office in Honolulu. Salas said amendments on the proposed projects for CNMI airports, including priority programs, will be tackled during the discussion with Simpson.

162 graduate from Palau Community College

Palau Community College held its 49th Commencement Exercises on May 25, 2012. Receiving their degrees and certificates were 110 PCC graduates, 15 Adult High School graduates, 32 San Diego State University bachelor's degree graduates, and five graduates in Substance Abuse and Addiction Treatment Counseling Program (International & Regional).

The graduates of the School of Arts & Sciences. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The graduates of the School of Business. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The graduates of the School of Technical Education. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The commencement speaker, U.S. Ambassador to Palau Helen Patricia Reed-Rowe, urged students to focus on their goals and keep moving forward to achieve them, whether they be short-term goals, five-year goals or even long-term goals. At the end of her address, Reed-Rowe announced that Palau Community College will be housing Education U.S.A., which is a U.S. government approved project that helps students and families have immediate access to information on U.S. colleges and universities.

San Diego State University officials who conferred the degrees on 32 SDSU graduates were Dr. Geoffrey Chase, dean, SDSU Undergraduate Studies; Dr. Theresa Lally, professor/program coordinator, Interwork Institute; and Dr. Caren L. Sax, co-director, Interwork Institute.

The 2012 valedictorian is Byron M. Silil, who completed his associate of science degree in Environmental/Marine Science program and a recipient of the Outstanding Student Award. Also receiving the Outstanding Student Award were Ashley Umetaro, Dante C. Rengiil, Desiree S. Seklii, Dannies Uehara, Jamaal B. Tewid, and Klerang K. Recheked.

The 2012 Outstanding Citizenship Award for outstanding participation, contribution and conduct in all campus life, community services, and academic was presented to Desiree S. Seklii. ***(PR)***

The 32 San Diego State University bachelor's degree graduates. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

State Rehabilitation Council

P.O. Box 501521 SAIPAN, MP 96950, TEL:(670) 322-6538 FAX: (670)322-6536
TTY (670) 322-6449 E-MAIL: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the State Rehabilitation Council will hold its FY'12 Third General Membership on Thursday, June 07, 2012 at Charley's Cabaret, Pacific Islands Club at 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Roll Call by SRC Secretary
III. Review and adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and adoption of the FY '12 Second Meeting Minutes (03/06/12)
V. Reports
- a. OVR Director
- b. Sub-Committee Chairpersons
- c. SRC Chairperson
  -Trip Reports

VI. Old Business
- a) Draft FY 2013 State Plan
- b) Review OVR MOA with agencies (PSS/SpEd & NMC, etc.)
- c) Ongoing review of OVR Policies/Procedures

VII. New Business
- a. CNMI Energy Division Presentation
- b. Guam & CNMI VR/SRC Sensitivity Training for the physically, developmentally and intellectually challenged
- c. 2012 NDEAM (National Disability Employment Awareness Month) Plan

VIII. Consumer Forum
IX. Announcements/Miscellaneous
X. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY) two days before the meeting. For more clarification, please contact Elvira Seman at 322-6537 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY).

/s/ Isidro K. Seman
CHAIRMAN

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Only bold leadership will stop Assad

As citizens of the world's most militarily powerful nation, Americans have a natural tendency to demand forceful action when we see egregious wrongs being committed in other countries. The genocide in Rwanda comes to mind, or the massacres that followed Yugoslavia's breakup in the 1990s.

Americans know our military is capable of amazing feats when unleashed to punish recalcitrant actors. So why isn't Washington showing greater decisiveness and international leadership when it comes to punishing Syria's murderous dictatorship?

The Obama administration's cautious, behind-the-scenes approach is understandable given the sensitivities and dangers surrounding Syria. A high U.S. military profile is neither requested nor welcomed by the major players in the conflict. That's why Washington must continue to act judiciously. Military muscle-flexing might score political points at home ahead of November's elections, but it could easily make a bad situation in Syria much, much worse.

At the same time, the Obama administration can and should do more. Government-instigated massacres in Syria require an international response reflecting urgency, not business as usual. This week's joint expulsion by the United States and 10 other nations of top Syrian diplomats was an important step in erasing any misconceptions that President Bashar Assad might have about international opposition to his dictatorship.

Now the Obama administration must lead more effectively in pushing the international community to the next level—a concerted effort to oust Assad from power so Syrians can begin building a more representative, democratic form of government. No other nation shows signs of taking charge of this effort, so the United States must fill the void.

Leadership means steering the United Nations away from ineffectual diplomatic attempts to coax Assad into behaving. U.N. observer missions and the direct intervention of former Secretary-General Kofi Annan have failed to halt the bloodshed. Instead, they've bolstered the image of international paralysis.

This newspaper stands by its earlier call for Western powers to funnel small arms to insurgents who have been properly vetted. Assad must understand that he no longer wields a monopoly on the use of force. It is naive to think the massacres will stop by themselves, or that Assad will suddenly grow a conscience. Arming the rebels is inherently dangerous and risks plunging Syria into full-scale civil war. That's why any such move should proceed only with extreme caution. But it should proceed.

Obama also should consider addressing the U.N. General Assembly on Syria before this conflict reaches the crisis stages of Rwanda or Bosnia. And he could request a summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin with the specific goal of halting Russian arms shipments to Syria.

What Obama must not do is remain a quiet, behind-the-scenes actor while waiting for some other world leader to take up the charge.

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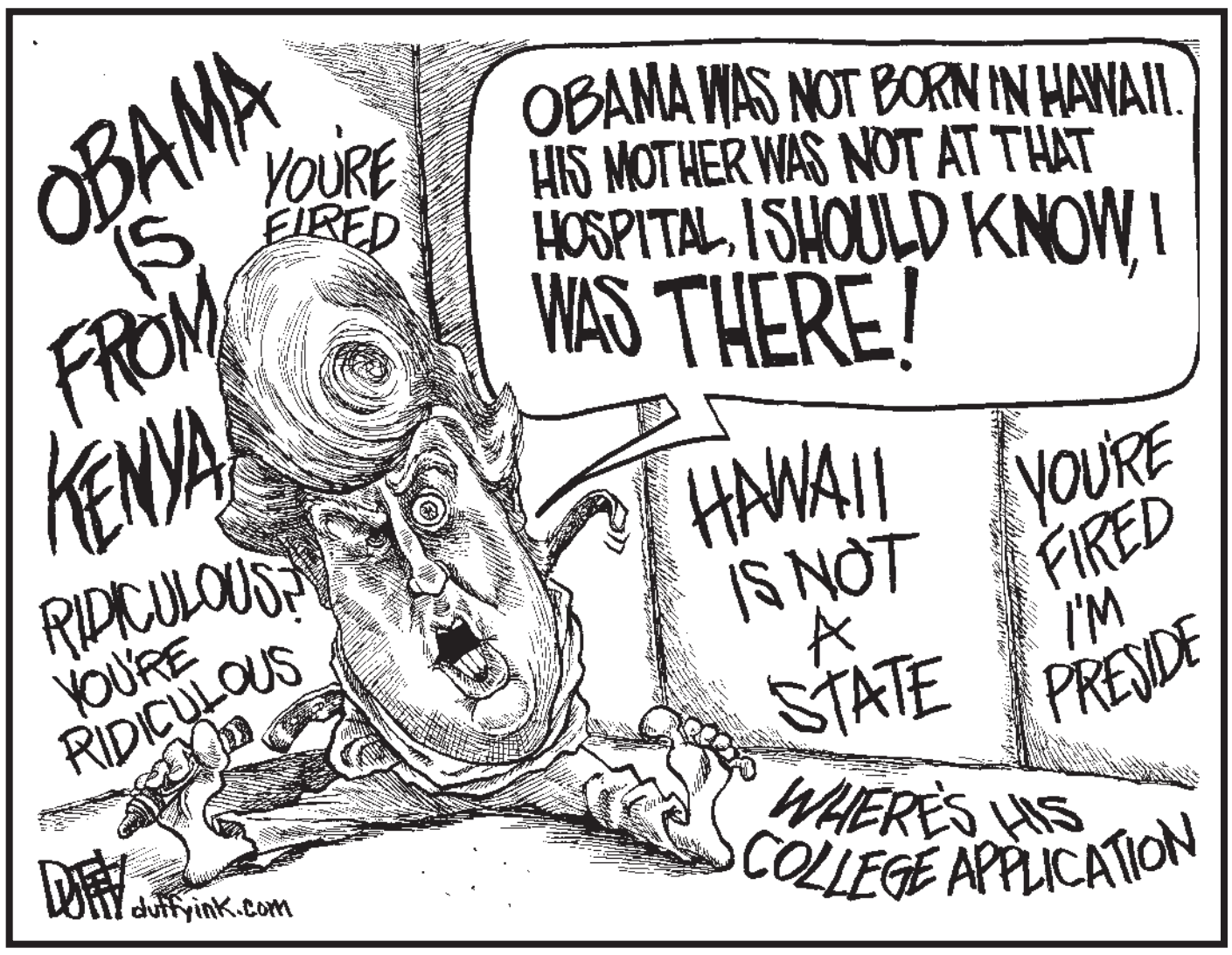
OBAMA IS FROM KENYA
YOU'RE FIRED
RIDICULOUS? YOU'RE RIDICULOUS
OBAMA WAS NOT BORN IN HAWAII. HIS MOTHER WAS NOT AT THAT HOSPITAL, I SHOULD KNOW, I WAS THERE!
HAWAII IS NOT A STATE
YOU'RE FIRED I'M PRESIDE
WHERE'S HIS COLLEGE APPLICATION
DUFFY duffyink.com

The Olympics and the rise of the humble, ubiquitous ball

By JOHN FOX
Los Angeles Times

John Fox is the author of just-published The Ball: Discovering the Object of the Game. *He wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

When the caldron is lit in London this summer and the XXX Olympics begins, one familiar participant will play a more active role than any other, taking center stage at 23 individual events. To the delight of billions, and without concern for its own well-being, it will be thrown, kicked, punched, slapped and struck with no fewer than three different instruments of torture. That abused but beloved participant is, of course, the humble, ubiquitous ball.

This universal object of play has become so integral to our very notion of sport that it would be unthinkable to host the Games without it. But the elevation of ball play to Olympic status is an entirely modern phenomenon. It would have been equally unthinkable in Classical times for an object as fun and frivolous as the ball to have been allowed entry to the hallowed sanctuary of Olympia.

It's not that the Greeks didn't love to play ball. When Odysseus was shipwrecked on the shore of Phaeacia, he encountered the beautiful princess Nausicaa playing an ancient version of dodgeball with her maids. While oxen were being sacrificed and athletes rubbed down with olive oil to compete for Zeus' honor at Olympia, ordinary Greeks were playing a silly game called ephedrismos, in which players mounted on the shoulders of teammates threw a ball at a target or to another pair of players. Scenes of women and men playing variations of this strange game of people polo appear repeatedly on painted jars and statues of the Classical period, and in much earlier scenes from ancient Egypt—suggesting it was more than just a passing fad.

More reminiscent of today's competitive team sports was episkyros, a rugby-like game played by two teams of a dozen or so players with a feather-stuffed leather ball. The 4th century playwright Antiphanes vividly described a game in progress, handing down possibly history's first play-by-play sports commentary: "He caught the ball and laughed as he passed it to one player at the same time as he dodged another ... and all the while there were screams and shouts: 'Out of bounds!' 'Too far!' 'Past him!' 'Over his head!'"

But these entertaining games were in a class apart from the Olympics, which were regarded not as "games"—a term not associated with the events until modern times—but as agon (root of "agony"), serious "struggles" of body and will. Young men of worth engaged in these sacred contests as proxy and preparation for battle; the muscle-bound Olympian represented the ideal of the man prepared to defend the city-state. To win was glorious: Along with an olive wreath and lifelong admiration, victors received a lifetime annuity and exemption from taxation (so much for amateurism).

To come in second, however, was to know the true agony of defeat. The 5th century poet Pindar described losing athletes returning home in shame: They "shrink down alleyways, bitten by failure." Ball games, by contrast, were described as paizein, or child's play. No ancient account of a ball game mentioned victory or defeat. To win or lose was beside the point.

This dichotomy between frivolous ball games and serious sporting contests persisted through the Middle Ages. What is believed to be the first mention of "football" in the English language is from a 1314 royal decree banning the game within the very city that will soon host it for 90,000 fans at Wembley Stadium. Why was the game banned not once but nine times in the first century of its existence? Because medieval football, an unruly mob game played by peasants, was considered a "vain game of no value." Kicking balls around, fun as it was, distracted from time spent at archery, which was required of all able-bodied men in defense of the kingdom.

So what should we make of the ball's slow march to Olympic credibility? Are the modern Games more playful than their ancient counterparts? Hardly. With this year's costs spiraling to more than $15 billion, the event has become more serious, and the stakes higher, than ever. In 2008, the Chinese gymnastics coach threatened to jump off a building if the team didn't capture multiple gold medals. When American swimmer Michael Phelps won his eighth gold and was asked how he felt, he offered, "Everything was accomplished"—words you'd more expect to hear from your accountant than from someone who just crossed the natural boundary between man and fish.

For better or worse, our ball games have been transformed into agonistic rites of their own, well worthy of their Olympic stature. During the Beijing Games, the U.S. women's soccer team would have made Zeus proud in its all-out battle to claim gold, scoring the winning goal against Brazil in the 96th minute of play.

Nevertheless, when the Games kick off in London, the presence of the ball on the field or court can serve as a healthy reminder that there's more to these Games than struggle over national honor, medal achievements and future sponsorship deals. There's the fun and the joy of watching the world play together.

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The parable of John Edwards: Ego can boost too high, too fast

By ROB CHRISTENSEN
The News & Observer (Raleigh, N.C.)

Rob Christensen is a columnist for the Raleigh (N.C.) News & Observer*. Readers may send him email at rob.christensen@newsobserver.com.*

I was having lunch in early 1997 at Big Ed's restaurant in downtown Raleigh, N.C., with a friend, when he mentioned that Johnny Edwards was thinking about running for the U.S. Senate the next year.

I replied: Who is Johnny Edwards?

I had been covering North Carolina politics for two decades, but I had never run across Edwards. He was not involved in politics, and as I later learned didn't even bother to vote half the time.

But I went by his office to meet the boyish-looking lawyer with a pre-$400 Prince Valiant haircut. In the first political story ever written about Edwards, I compared him to the Robert Redford character in the 1972 movie "The Candidate," a young unknown lawyer who wins but must compromise some of his ideals to do so.

My thoughts returned to my first meeting with Edwards on Thursday as a mistrial was declared in Greensboro after a jury acquitted him on one of six charges against him and deadlocked on the remainder. Regardless of whether federal prosecutors decide to retry the case, don't think Edwards got off. His reputation—a person's most valuable asset—is beyond tatters. Surely much of his bank account has been drained by legal bills.

Little did I realize when I first met Edwards in 1997 that I was really looking at rocker Elton John's "Rocket Man"—you know, "not the man they think I am at home...burning out his fuse up here alone."

Edwards' rocket-like political rise was bad for him in every way. Big-time trial lawyers like Edwards are often lone wolves, relying on their own wits to win courtroom battles. Edwards was elected to the Senate in 1998 by spending $6 million of his own money and then riding a national Democratic wave.

He had been in the Senate barely 18 months when he just missed being named Al Gore's vice-presidential running mate. Soon, he began his own quest for the presidency.

Edwards had smarts and skills, but no seasoning. To use a sports analogy, he was a star pitching prospect with a big arm who was sent from high school right into the big leagues.

In fields known for big egos—trial lawyers and politics—his was super-sized. It wasn't just political foes—Republicans and doctors particularly—who didn't like him. Most of the Democratic establishment in Raleigh didn't care for him either. There may have been jealousy. But they also saw arrogance. And he was seen as a user, never a giver.

Because Edwards was a self-made politician—and because he had not worked his way up the ladder—he didn't owe anybody. There were no gray heads around Edwards to give him guidance or to keep him out of trouble.

Listen to the court testimony of those who tried to stop Edwards from committing political suicide. The first person was Josh Brumberger, a 27-year-old aide. Imagine that: a 27-year-old junior aide telling a two-time presidential candidate that he needed to ditch his girlfriend if he wanted to get to the White House. Edwards' reaction was to cuss the kid and fire him.

When more senior aides tried, they were soon gone. They, too, were hired hands, not confidantes.

Perhaps no one could persuade Edwards to leave his ruinous path. He is not the first person to be blinded by a romantic obsession.

But what was truly breathtaking was his chutzpah—that he thought he could pull off such a brazen plot: hiding a mistress and child through an election cycle in the age of social media, the Internet and campaign-opposition research.

Edwards is said to wonder why he has been so vilified when other cheaters, from John F. Kennedy to Bill Clinton, fared better.

But Edwards badly misjudged the temper of the times and failed to see that his circumstances—a dying wife, a child, an ongoing campaign, and an elaborate coverup—made him look like the bigger heel.

Maybe character is fate, and nothing could have dissuaded Edwards from his recklessness. Coming from a small mill town and a family of modest means, Edwards had become a multimillionaire by beating battalions of insurance company lawyers.

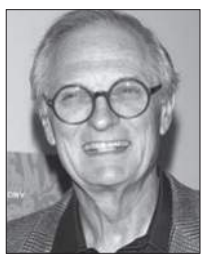
No sooner had he arrived in Washington than he took the measure of the men and women around him and decided that he, Johnny Edwards of Robbins, rather than they, should be president of the United States.

The adoring crowds, the packed arenas, the rope lines, the jokes with Jon Stewart, the toadying aides, the Secret Service protection. All that would feed even the most restrained ego.

So what if he had an affair? So what if it had produced a baby? He was Rocket Man.

The normal rules of gravity did not apply to him. Until they did.

Fired up about the magic of fire



By ALAN ALDA
Newsday

Alan Alda, an actor, writer and director, serves on the advisory board of the Center for Communicating Science at Stony Brook University. This was written for Newsday.

Lately I've spent a lot of time trying to help scientists explain in simple words what it is they do. Why in the world, you might wonder, should a nonscientific person worry about a thing like that? There are two pretty good reasons.

For one thing, before a surgeon slices me open, I'd like him or her to do at least two minutes on what this is all about. What's the problem? What are the chances this will work? Will I be able to play the violin when I wake up?

In a way, scientists are operating on us all the time. We're surrounded by science. It's in the air we breathe, the food we eat. In our privacy, or lack of it. Don't we deserve good, clear explanations of what scientists are doing? How else can we ask the questions that can keep them prudent? Scientists can't just speak to us in a secret, sacred language. If we can't understand the lingo, we're excommunicated.

Reason No. 2 is just as much in our self interest: When scientists explain their world in words we can understand, listening to them is one of the deepest, most exhilarating kinds of fun a person can have without actually sky diving or discovering America. It can be thrilling.

I have a long history of wanting science to be a little clearer. I was very curious as a boy and when I was 11 years old I got fascinated with the flame at the end of a candle. I couldn't figure out what was happening in there. So, I asked my teacher and she said—a little abruptly, I thought—"It's oxidation."

That doesn't quite explain it when you've never heard the word oxidation before.

It's been many years since I asked that question, but I recently decided to ask it again. I started a contest to see if scientists would rise to the challenge of explaining this common thing—a flame—so that an 11-year-old would understand it.

The idea was not primarily to teach kids science, but rather to encourage scientists to think about the tough problem of making science clear and vivid, without dumbing it down—and thereby disrespecting both the kids and the science.

This is what we teach at The Center for Communicating Science at Stony Brook University, which offers classes and workshops in which young scientists can learn the skills of communication as a fundamental part of their education.

The center set up a panel of scientists to check entries for accuracy before they went to the judges. But the best part of the contest was that the judges were real 11-year-olds. The winner they chose will be announced June 2.

Once it got under way, we were surprised to find that the question was way harder to answer than we had suspected. Explaining a flame requires reference to some of the most basic structures in the universe. Even so, we had more than 800 submissions from scientists all around the world.

We were even more surprised to see how excited the kids were about judging the scientists' entries. They were signed up by their teachers in droves: more than 6,000 students, from Alaska to Australia and from Belgium to Brentwood. For a glimpse of how much fun this question was for the kids, take a look at the Worldwide Assembly we had on the Web for 10 schools in several different countries, at flamechallenge.org.

But it was more than fun. The kids learned something about chemistry and physics—and we learned a lot about communicating science. Much of what we learned was from the kids themselves. They didn't like entries that were too long, but they also didn't like them too short. A common complaint was that they wanted more information—they clearly wanted to learn. They appreciated humor, but not at the expense of clarity or insight. (As one student said, "We're 11, not 7.")

And they appreciated the use of metaphor, but they wanted metaphors that opened their eyes to understanding—not comparisons that simply said something was like something else. In short, they wanted to be engaged, but they wanted the experience to end in the pleasure of new knowledge.

It was very clear that these minds are longing for scientists to share their excitement with us. After all, scientists are on a great adventure.

They're off discovering the universe, and we want them to take us along.

Saving the misery for your best friend

By GINA BARRECA
The Hartford Courant

Gina Barreca is an English professor at the University of Connecticut, a feminist scholar who has written eight books, and a columnist for the Hartford Courant. *She can be reached through her website at http://www.ginabarreca.com.*

Women expect our best friends to be there in times of misery. We want to be able to contact our friends 24 hours a day, as if they were the fire department or QVC.

We expect our pals to soothe, comfort and heal; basically, good friends are Neosporin for the soul.

They'll respond when we break up with somebody, when a kid asks for bail or when a beloved pet dies. They don't shrug it off, tsk-tsk, or say they'll ring back later. They show up with wine, cash or a shovel.

So why is it that we don't always trust our best friends with good news? Why is it often harder to announce, "I got a fabulous raise!" than it is to confess, "I took a cut in pay!"

Why is it that women lead conversations, even (or perhaps especially) with those closest to us by rattling off our current insecurities and vulnerabilities?

If you want to get into argument with a woman, just tell her she looks good, because she's going to explain to you for the next 45 minutes why you're wrong. She will contradict you if you give a compliment. She might actually punch you in the jaw if you say something genuinely flattering about one of her achievements.

Just listen to a woman welcoming another woman into her house. The place could be immaculate; you could perform neurosurgery on the floor. That's how clean it is. But she will always apologize for what a wreck the place is, right?

The stainless steel will be so brilliantly polished you can see through time, but she's showing you a cup left from this morning's coffee in the sink. You can't actually see the sink because of the glare from the shining plutonium fixtures, so she'll drag you over to prove that she's messy.

She believes she owes you an apology. All she sees is a mess. And believe me, she's not faking it. Women apologize and we mean it. But half the time we're apologizing for old stuff: the good host might really be seeing the chaos of the house she grew up in, or worrying about the upstairs closet, which she is not going to show you.

Or she might just be thinking about the unsorted and unruly nature of her inner life and believe that that's manifested somehow in her perfectly organized house.

Men? They don't apologize. A guy has a goat living in his house, eating the trash, and he tells you not get in the goat's face because he has a temper. That's how he welcomes you to his home.

(I'm not saying that men can't be neat. My husband's garage—yes, the garage is his, although my car is allowed to have sleepovers as long as it's clean and doesn't leave a wet patch—is as well kept as MOMA. He has art on the walls and tools are placed in alphabetical order. This is no man-cave; this is a shrine to testosterone.) The trouble is that every woman believes she got to where she is by pretending to be somebody she is not. And so we're uneasy.

Is there an opposite of schadenfreude? You know: not where you're laughing at the misfortune of others, but you're feeling just a sneaking, small bit awful about the happiness of someone you otherwise adore?

I'm not talking about something as basic as envy; this is more complicated.

It's the feeling you get when your best friend is losing weight (when you're not), falls madly in love (when you're not), or wins Powerball (when you've been playing every week for 26 years and she bought one lousy ticket simply to break a 20—not that you're bitter).

It's at these moments you offer one of those smiles so unnatural it looks as it were put there by an undertaker. It expresses "I love you but—why you? Why not me?"

I suspect that unworthy thought has crept, unbidden, into the hearts of saints. Unlike the cup in the sink, however, it's the one sin for which a woman can never apologize.

We can only hope our friends will love us anyway.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87 ° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

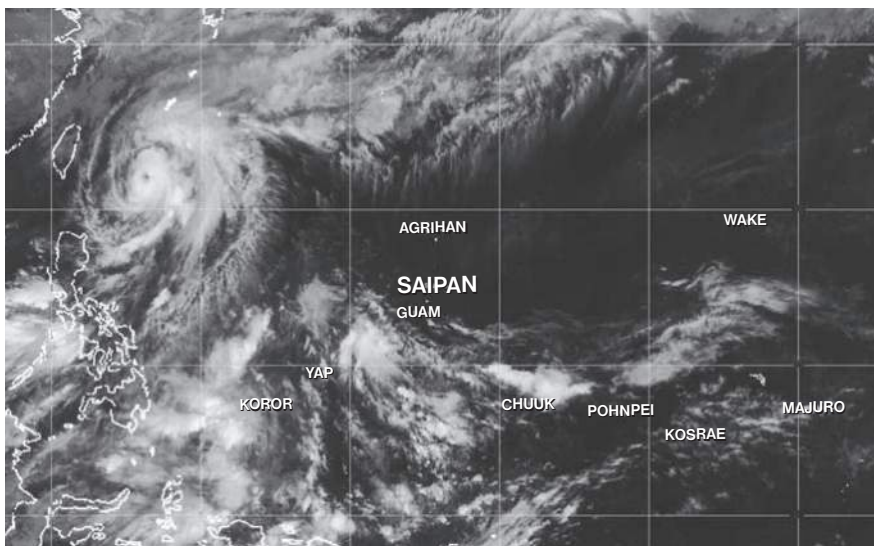
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲91	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲87	▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼77
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲87	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲64	▼60
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲91	▼67
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲87	▼81
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼73
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲59	▼48
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲72	▼56
Manila	Thundershowers	▲85	▼81
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲55	▼43
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89	▼77
New York	Showers	▲69	▼55
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲79	▼65
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲66	▼45
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼65
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲79	▼60
Salem	Showers	▲59	▼42
San Francisco	Sunny	▲57	▼49
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲82	▼65
Tokyo	Showers	▲68	▼65
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲74	▼59

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Converging low-level winds are causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southeast of Okinawa west of a line from 25N134E to 20N134E to 17N130E. A weak circulation is centered near Koror at 9N134E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found over the Republic of Koror and near Yap between the equator and 10N west of 139E. Convergence associated with the weak circulation near Koror is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between Yap and Guam within 200 miles of a line from 15N137E to 6N147E. A trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms north of Chuuk and Pohnpei within 100 miles of a line from 9N150E to 9N156E to 11N163E to 15N165E. Converging trade winds are generating scattered showers between Kosrae and Kwajalein within 100 miles of a line from 7N162E to 6N170E and southeast of Majuro within 80 miles of a line from 3N173E to 5N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:01 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
7:59 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
3:26 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
10:30 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46 AM	6:45 PM
Wednesday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:38 PM	6:13 AM
Wednesday	8:36 PM	7:17 AM
Thursday	9:29 PM	8:20 AM
Friday	10:17 PM	9:19 AM
Saturday	11:01 PM	10:15 AM

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DEPARTURES			
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30pm	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:50am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	4:35pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS			
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 5 via ROP
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
DL172/288	8:05am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5077	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5076	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; UA: United; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

Global economy at risk as US, Europe and Asia slow

AP
Workers stand on the scaffolding of a modern commercial building in Beijing, China, Wednesday, May 30, 2012.

WASHINGTON (AP)—The global economy's foundations are weakening, one by one.

Already hobbled by Europe's debt crisis, the world now risks being hurt by slowdowns in its economic powerhouses.

The U.S. economy, the world's largest, had a third straight month of feeble job growth in May. High-flying economies in China, India and Brazil are slowing, too.

Fears of a global economic downturn have sent investors rushing toward the safest possible investments: U.S. and German government bonds. As a result, the interest rate on the 10-year U.S. Treasury note has hit a record-low 1.46 percent. The rate on the German 10-year bond is even lower: 1.17 percent.

"Treasurys are at 1.46 because people are freaking out," says Mark Vitner, senior economist at Wells Fargo Economics.

The gravest fear is Europe. The most urgent threat is that in mid-June, Greek voters will reject the terms of a $170 billion bailout - which called for painful budget cuts—and abandon the euro. The move could ignite economic and financial chaos as Greek debts shift from denominations in euros to Greek drachmas of uncertain value.

Yet the global economy's troubles go well beyond Greece. Here's a look at the global economy's vital signs:

UNITED STATES

American employers added just 69,000 jobs in May. Since averaging a healthy 252,000 a month from December through February, job growth has slowed to a lackluster average of 96,000 a month.

On Friday, after the government issued the May jobs report, the Dow Jones industrial average sank 275 points. It was the Dow's biggest loss since November, and it's now down 0.8 percent for the year.

The dismal news suggested that the U.S. economy is enduring a midyear slump just as in 2010 and 2011.

Unemployment rose to 8.2 percent from 8.1 percent in May as 642,000 more Americans poured into the work force, and only 422,000 more people got jobs.

The jobs report came out a day after the government said the U.S. economy grew at just a 1.9 percent annual rate in the first three months of 2012. That's a meager pace nearly three years after the recession officially ended in June 2009. And it's too slow to generate many jobs or to lower the unemployment rate. In good economic times, the rate would be below 6 percent.

Many U.S. companies are finding it more efficient to invest in machinery, not people.

"We're not hiring, and we're not replacing" workers who leave, says Joe Glenn, who runs Glenn Metalcraft in Princeton, Minn.

His sales jumped 40 percent last year. Yet Glenn's shop has kept employment flat at about 35 workers. He's added more computer-controlled metal-working machines and robots to load the raw material into them.

"We're producing as much as we were with a lot less manpower," Glenn says. "And I don't foresee that those jobs are going to come back."

Other companies are reluctant to hire until they feel more confident that their customer demand will keep growing. Adding to their uncertainty are Europe's troubles and America's dysfunctional politics.

For now, some key sectors of the U.S. economy remain positive. Americans are buying more homes, suggesting that the housing market is on the mend. U.S. builders have increased their spending on home and commercial construction.

Auto sales just posted their best May since 2008. Manufacturing activity continues to grow, and so does consumer spending, which drives about 70 percent of the economy.

Borrowing rates for consumers and businesses have never been lower. Tame inflation has given the Federal Reserve leeway to keep interest rates low. And gasoline prices have been sinking. The national average is now $3.61, and experts predict further drops in coming weeks.

Still, unless Congress and the White House reach an agreement by year's end, federal taxes will jump and deep spending cuts will kick in. Should that happen, the Congressional Budget Office says, the economy would likely fall into another recession.

Given the size of the U.S. economy, further weaknesses could worsen the slowdowns in European and Asian countries that depend on sales to American consumers.

EUROPE

Unemployment in the 17 countries that use the euro is already at 11 percent, the European Union's Eurostat office reported Friday. It's the highest rate since the euro was introduced in 1999.

European countries have been struggling with their debt crisis for three years. Three nations—Greece, Ireland and Portugal—have already required bailouts because of unsustainable levels of debt.

Austerity has been the main prescription for the crisis. But spending cuts and tax hikes are causing economies to shrink across the eurozone.

In a blunt warning, European Central Bank chief Mario Draghi last week called the euro currency union "unsustainable" without stronger political and financial ties among eurozone countries.

The fear is that Greece will drop the euro, and other weak countries, such as Spain and Portugal, will be forced to follow. Financial chaos could rage across Europe.

Spain is facing punishing borrowing costs on bond markets because investors fear it won't be able to pay its debts. Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy declared Saturday that his government will stick with harsh austerity measures as long as necessary.

But Spain's unemployment is already 24.4 percent. For those under age 25, unemployment is 51.5 percent. Businesses are being crushed.

"This shop has been here for close to 100 years, and I've worked here for 48 years," says Manuel Cabrejas, a salesman at a cushion store in Madrid whose shop windows were covered in signs saying, "Closing down sale, big discounts, everything must go."

"For the last two years, we have only just been covering running costs," Cabrejas said. "It's time to let go."

ASIA AND SOUTH AMERICA

Since the global recession ended in 2009, the world economy has been fueled by rising powers in the developing world led by China, India and Brazil.

Now, all three are running into trouble.

China's manufacturing weakened in May, according to surveys out Friday. Factory output was the weakest in three months.

Some economists say China's economic growth will fall to an 8 percent rate in the April-June quarter. That's high by Western standards, but it would be the weakest growth for China in nearly three years. In response, China is rolling out an economic stimulus program.

Having rebounded strongly from the recession of 2007-2009, China's economy grew a sizzling 10.4 percent in 2010 and 9.2 percent in 2011. For the past two years, it's helped drive global growth. Australia and other Asian countries have come to rely on Chinese markets for their exports.

India is suffering an even sharper slowdown. Its economic growth slowed to a 5.3 percent annual rate in the January-March quarter, the lowest in nine years. Output from India's factories has declined. Its consumers have seen inflation—which has averaged 9.2 percent a year since the start of 2010—devour their wages.

"It's beyond anything that we would have imagined," said Samiran Chakraborty, head of research at Standard Chartered in Mumbai. "Real wages are falling ... The consumption slowdown along with the investment slowdown has been a double-whammy for the GDP number."

As recently as last year, Indian politicians were claiming their economy could rival China's and surge into double-digit growth, lifting hundreds of millions out of poverty in the process.

Instead, India is mired in a deepening crisis of confidence. Asia's third-largest economy is widely regarded as performing below its potential.

Indians are losing hope that their country's fractious political system will deliver the policies that might unlock a rebound—investments in roads, ports and other projects and lighter regulations to attract more foreign investment.

One encouraging corner of Asia has been Japan's economy, the world's third largest. It grew at an annual rate of 4.1 percent in the first quarter of 2012 as it recovered from last year's earthquake and tsunami. But factors that could crimp expansion, such as weaker European demand for Japanese exports, have raised fears that Japan's growth will slow or even stall.

In Brazil, the economy practically stalled in the first quarter of 2012. It grew at just a 0.2 percent annual rate from the final three months of 2011, the government said Friday. That was below expectations of 0.5 percent growth. Flooding punished farmers.

But Brazilian officials, like analysts in China, also pointed to another culprit, one that shows how problems in one part of the world cause problems in another: The ongoing trouble in Europe is taking a toll on exports.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

BOG relocates San Antonio branch to Chalan Piao

HAGATNA, Guam—Bank of Guam relocated its San Antonio branch to the Joeten Chalan Piao Plaza in Chalan Piao beginning today, June 5. The branch telephone numbers are 235-5494, Fax (670) 235-5011, and hours of operation at Monday through Thursday, 9am-4pm, Friday 9am 6om. The mailing address is P.O. Box 500678, Saipan MP 96950. For additional information, contact Marci Tomokane at 670-236-2700. ***(BOG)***

Oil plunges to 8-month low on weak US jobs report

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil plunged to fresh eight-month lows near $82 a barrel Monday in Asia as a dismal U.S. jobs report sparked selling of stocks and commodities. Benchmark oil for July delivery was down $1.09 to $82.14 per barrel, the lowest since October, in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell $3.30 to settle at $83.23 in New York on Friday.

Reports: Oman oil strikers returned to jobs

MUSCAT, Oman (AP)—Oman's state media says nearly 400 workers in the country's oil industry are being reinstated after they were fired for staging strikes seeking better conditions and pay. The Sunday reports say the deal was reached after high-level talks that included labor leaders in the Arabian peninsula nation. The official Oman News Agency says the country's Shura Council, the highest elected body, led negotiations.

New farm bill would end direct payments to farmers

WASHINGTON (AP)—A program that puts billions of dollars in the pockets of farmers whether or not they plant a crop may disappear with hardly a protest from farm groups and the politicians who look out for their interests. The Senate is expected to begin debate this week on a five-year farm and food aid bill that would save $9.3 billion by ending direct payments to farmers and replacing them with subsidized insurance programs for when the weather turns bad or prices go south.

Nation

After gory incidents, online 'zombie' talk grows

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—First came Miami: the case of a naked man eating most of another man's face. Then Maryland, a college student telling police he killed a man, then ate his heart and part of his brain.

It was different in New Jersey, where a man stabbed himself 50 times and threw bits of his own intestines at police. They pepper-sprayed him, but he was not easily subdued.

He was, people started saying, acting like a zombie. And the whole discussion just kept growing, becoming a topic that the Internet couldn't seem to stop talking about.

The actual incidents are horrifying—and, if how people are talking about them is any indication, fascinating. In an America where zombie imagery is used to peddle everything from tools and weapons to garden gnomes, they all but beg the comparison.

Violence, we're used to. Cannibalism and people who should fall down but don't? That feels like something else entirely.

So many strange things have made headlines in recent days that The Daily Beast assembled a Google Map tracking "instances that may be the precursor to a zombie apocalypse." And the federal agency that tracks diseases weighed in as well, insisting it had no evidence that any zombie-linked health crisis was unfolding.

AP

Crime Scene investigator Andres Betancourt photographs a credit card found at the scene belonging to Rudy Eugene, Tuesday, May 29, 2012 in Miami.

The cases themselves are anything but funny. Each involved real people either suspected of committing unspeakable acts or having those acts visited upon them for reasons that have yet to be figured out. Maybe it's nothing new, either; people do horrible things to each other on a daily basis.

But what, then, made search terms like "zombie apocalypse" trend day after day last week in multiple corners of the Internet, fueled by discussions and postings that were often framed as humor?

"They've heard of these zombie movies, and they make a joke about it," says Lou Manza, a psychology professor at Lebanon Valley College in Pennsylvania, who learned about the whole thing at the breakfast table Friday morning when his 18-year-old son quipped that a "zombie apocalypse" was imminent.

Symbolic of both infection and evil, zombies are terrifying in a way that other horror-movie iconography isn't, says Elizabeth Bird, an anthropologist at the University of South Florida.

Zombies, after all, look like us. But they aren't. They are some baser form of us—slowly rotting and shambling along, intent on "surviving" and creating more of their kind, but with no emotional core, no conscience, no limits.

"Vampires have kind of a romantic appeal, but zombies are doomed," Bird says. "Zombies can never really become human again. There's no going back.

"That resonates in today's world, with people feeling like we're moving toward an ending," she says. "Ultimately they are much more of a depressing figure."

The "moving toward an ending" part is especially potent. For some, the news stories fuel a lurking fear that, ultimately, humanity is doomed.

Speculation varies. It could be a virus that escapes from some secret government lab, or one that mutates on its own. Or maybe it'll be the result of a deliberate combination and weaponization of pathogens, parasites and disease.

It will, many believe, be something we've created—and therefore brought upon ourselves.

Zombies represent America's fears of bioterrorism, a fear that strengthened after the 9/11 attacks, says Patrick Hamilton, an English professor at Misericordia University in Dallas, Pa., who studies how we process comic-book narratives.

Economic anxiety around the planet doesn't help matters, either, with Greece, Italy and Spain edging closer to crisis every day. Consider some of the terms that those fears produce: zombie banks, zombie economies, zombie governments.

Zimmerman back in jail, 2 days after bond revoked

MIAMI (AP)—George Zimmerman, the former neighborhood watch volunteer charged with murder in the killing of Trayvon Martin, surrendered to police Sunday and was booked into a central Florida jail two days after his bond was revoked.

Zimmerman's legal team said in a tweet Sunday afternoon that he was in police custody. Circuit Judge Kenneth Lester revoked Zimmerman's bond on Friday, saying the defendant and his wife had lied to the court in April about their finances so he could obtain a lower bond.

Zimmerman

About 40 minutes before the 2:30 p.m. Sunday deadline to surrender, the Seminole County jail website listed Zimmerman as an inmate. He was being held without bail and had $500 in his jail account, the website showed.

Seminole County Sheriff Donald Eslinger said Zimmerman turned himself in to two sheriff's office employees around 1:25 p.m. near the jail, and was then driven there. Zimmerman arrived in a white minivan and did not respond to questions from reporters as he walked inside, handcuffed and wearing blue jeans, sneakers and a button-down shirt.

"He is quiet and cooperative," Eslinger said at a news conference after Zimmerman's surrender.

The sheriff's office said the 28-year-old Zimmerman would be in a cell by himself, separated from the general population, because the case is so high-profile. The 67-square-foot cell is equipped with a toilet, two beds, a mattress, a pillow, a blanket and bed sheets. Zimmerman will not have access to a TV.

Prosecutors said last week that Zimmerman and his wife told the judge at a bond hearing in April that they had limited money, even though he had raised about $135,000 through a website set up for his legal defense. They suggested more has been collected since and deposited in a bank account. Defense attorneys say the matter is a misunderstanding.

The judge said Friday he would schedule a hearing after Zimmerman was back in custody so he could explain himself.

Defense attorney Mark O'Mara announced earlier Sunday on his website that Zimmerman had arrived in Florida late Saturday evening ahead of his surrender.

Zimmerman, who was charged in April with second-degree murder in the fatal shooting of the 17-year-old Martin in Sanford, was ordered by a judge Friday to return to jail. After his release, Zimmerman stayed at an undisclosed location for his safety.

Zimmerman's legal team said Sunday that they will ask for a new bond hearing to address the judge's concerns, and that they hope Zimmerman's voluntary surrender will show he is not a flight risk.

The money that Zimmerman has raised is in an independent trust and cannot be directly accessed by Zimmerman or his attorneys, according to the press release.

He has pleaded not guilty to the second-degree murder charge. He maintains that he shot Martin in self-defense under Florida's so-called "stand your ground" law because the teen, who was unarmed, was beating him up. Zimmerman claims the teenager had confronted the then-neighborhood watch volunteer about following Martin in a gated community in Sanford, about 25 miles northwest of Orlando.

In NYC missing boy case, complex question of duty

NEW YORK (AP)—Decades before he was arrested in one of the country's most haunting missing-child cases, Pedro Hernandez told people he had killed a child, police and relatives say.

His alleged remarks in the 1980s made their way just last month to New York City police, who say Hernandez then told them he'd strangled 6-year-old Etan Patz in 1979. Although one relative says she tried to tell authorities years ago about a rumor that he'd confessed in a prayer group to a child slaying, other people apparently stayed silent.

It's not yet clear what will become of a murder case that hinges heavily on confessions from a suspect who is schizophrenic, according to his lawyer. Regardless, the account of loved ones and acquaintances hearing his disturbing claim long ago raises a sensitive legal and philosophical question: What's a person supposed to do with information like that?

Are the obligations different for someone who is party to an oblique confidence about a seemingly serious crime than for an actual witness to one? What if the scenario is laced with family ties or religious fellowship?

In the U.S., relatives, friends and bystanders may well not be legally required to report such information to authorities. But ethics experts say people have a moral duty to do so.

And some have, even when it meant implicating loved ones in crimes as grievous as those of finance fraudster Bernard Madoff, arrested after his sons contacted authorities, and "Unabomber" Ted Kaczynski, whose brother turned him in.

Not that that makes the considerations easy.

ACROSS THE NATION

Poll: Voters turn against California bullet train

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A new poll finds California voters are experiencing buyers' remorse over a proposed $68 billion bullet train project, as the number of lawsuits against the rail system grows. Fifty-five percent of voters want to see the high-speed rail bond issue that was approved in 2008 back on the ballot, and 59 percent say they would now vote against it, according to the USC Dornsife/Los Angeles Times survey published Saturday. Since the $9 billion borrowing plan was passed, the projected cost of the bullet train between Los Angeles and San Francisco has roughly doubled, and it will now share track with slower commuter and freight trains in some areas, the Times said.

Air tanker crash kills 2 at Utah wildfire site

RENO, Nev. (AP)—An air tanker dropping retardant on a remote wildfire along the Utah-Nevada line crashed Sunday afternoon, killing both crew members, authorities said. The pilots were fighting the 5,000-acre White Rock Fire, which began burning Friday night after a lightning strike in eastern Nevada. The fire spread across the Utah line Saturday night, but most of the blaze remained in Nevada, about 150 miles northeast of Las Vegas. The cause of the 1:45 p.m. MDT crash in the Hamblin Valley area of western Utah was unknown, Bureau of Land Management officials said.

Asia

Ousted PH top judge to leave post quietly

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The ousted Philippine chief justice indicated Sunday that he won't challenge his removal after being convicted in a politically-charged impeachment trial of failing to declare $2.4 million in his bank account.

Renato Corona's dismissal last week marked the first time in Philippine history a chief magistrate had been impeached.

Corona said in a statement that he was leaving the high tribunal, without mentioning any plans to challenge his removal by the 23-member Senate, which acted as an impeachment court.

Corona's lawyers have said he could challenge the verdict before the Supreme Court, an option some fear would bring the legislature and the judiciary on a collision course and possibly spark a constitutional crisis.

Corona, however, said the time has come for him "to render service to our people outside of the limitations of public office," adding he did not regret "making a stand and will continue to fight for the cause of judicial independence."

Previously, Corona accused President Benigno Aquino III of fast-tracking his ouster like a dictator, while Aquino accused Corona of blocking his administration's effort to prosecute former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo as part of a campaign promise to wage a battle against corruption.

Senators voted Tuesday to convict Corona on charges of betraying public trust and violating the constitution for not fully declaring his assets as required by law.

He argued that his omission was not an impeachable offense. In a bid to prove he did not commit any wrongdoing, he signed a waiver allowing officials to check his bank accounts and urged other officials to do the same.

"This is the new standard for public trust in government service," he said. "The Filipino people deserve nothing less."

AP

Supreme Court Chief Justice Renato Corona on a wheelchair, accompanied by his wife Cristina, right, leaves after his impeachment trial at the Senate in Manila, Philippines, Friday, May 25, 2012.

ASIA BRIEFS

Typhoon leaves 2 dead, 5 missing in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Disaster-response officials say the first typhoon to hit the Philippines this year has left two people dead, five missing and 16 others injured. Office of Civil Defense administrator Benito Ramos and the weather bureau say Typhoon Mawar was blowing away off the mountainous northern Philippines Sunday toward southern Japan with sustained winds of 120 kilometers (75 miles) per hour and gusts of up to 150 kph (93 mph). Ramos says two children drowned in a swollen river in western Palawan province, which was not directly hit by the typhoon but was lashed by heavy rains. He says five men, mostly fishermen, are missing and 16 people were injured in stormy weather. About 20 storms batter the country each year.

NKorea threatens specific attacks on SKorean media

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—North Korea says it has aimed rockets at the specific coordinates of South Korean media groups. The General Staff of the Korean People's Army warned Monday that it will launch a "sacred war" against South Korean conservative President Lee Myung-bak and seven news agencies if Seoul doesn't apologize for what Pyongyang calls a "vicious smear campaign" against ongoing children's festivals in Pyongyang. The threat carried by the official Korean Central News Agency is one of several from Pyongyang in recent months as ties worsen between the rival Koreas. But it's rare for the North to publicize the longitude and latitude of locations it says it will attack.

China hails bus driver who saved passengers

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese are hailing a bus driver who maintained control of his vehicle and ensured passengers' safety despite being struck by a chunk of iron that smashed through his windscreen. Wu Bin ultimately died of his injuries from Tuesday's freak accident, but not before braking, shifting gears and telling passengers not to wander onto the highway. His hometown of Hangzhou in eastern China has praised him as a hero and a role model. Dramatic security camera footage broadcast Sunday on state television showed the object hitting Wu and his calm handling of the situation, despite being in obvious pain. Wu died Friday.

Officials: US drone strike in Pakistan kills 8

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—A drone strike in Pakistan's tribal areas killed eight suspected militants early Monday, Pakistani officials said, as the U.S. pushes ahead with the controversial drone program despite Pakistani demands to stop.

The strike was the seventh in less than two weeks and highlights the importance that Washington places on the drone program as a way to combat al-Qaida and Taliban fighters who use Pakistan as a base for attacks against American and NATO forces in Afghanistan.

In the most recent attack, three Pakistani intelligence officials say four missiles were fired at a suspected militant hideout in a village near the town of Mir Ali in North Waziristan early Monday morning.

North Waziristan is one of the tribal areas along the border with Afghanistan that has become a hub of militant activity.

The attack followed closely on the heels of another drone strike Sunday that killed 10 suspected militants. Two Pakistani intelligence officials say in that attack, four missiles were fired at targets in the village of Mana Raghzai in South Waziristan near the border with Afghanistan.

At the time of the attack, suspected militants were gathered to offer condolences to the brother of a militant commander killed during another drone strike Saturday.

The brother was one of those who died in the Sunday morning strike.

All the Pakistani officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

The American drone campaign, which has accelerated under President Barack Obama, has become a source of deep frustration and tension between the U.S. and Pakistan.

Secretly, many Pakistani military commanders are believed to support the drone campaign. But among the Pakistani public, where the U.S. is viewed with mistrust, the drone strikes are considered an affront to the nation's sovereignty.

The Pakistani government and parliament have repeatedly asked the U.S. to stop the strikes.

The ongoing attacks are also complicating efforts for the U.S. and Pakistan to come to an agreement over reopening the supply routes to NATO and American forces in Afghanistan. American airstrikes inadvertently killed 24 Pakistani soldiers in November, prompting Islamabad to block U.S. and NATO supply lines running through its territory.

Pakistan has demanded an apology over the raid and an end to drone strikes as a precursor to reopening the supply lines. But the U.S. has shown no intention of ending the attacks.

Also Sunday, gunmen killed four Shiite minority Muslims, a police officer and a bystander in a busy market of southwestern Pakistani city of Quetta, said police officer Abdul Wahid. He said police were investigating who could be behind the attack, but that it had a sectarian motive.

In the 1980s and 1990s, Pakistan became the scene of a proxy war between mostly Shiite Iran and Sunni Saudi Arabia, with both sides funneling money to sectarian groups that regularly targeted each other.

The level of sectarian violence has declined somewhat since then, but attacks continue. In recent years, Sunni attacks on Shiites have been far more common.

Hanoi opens 3 new sites for POW search

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—The Vietnamese government on Monday agreed to open three new sites in the country for excavation by the United States to search for troop remains from the war, the minister of defense told U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta during a meeting here.

The announcement came as Panetta and Vietnam Defense Minister Phuong Quang Thanh exchanged artifacts collected during the war—letters written by a U.S. soldier who was killed that had been kept and used as propaganda, and a small maroon diary belonging to a Vietnamese soldier. A U.S. service member took the journal back to the U.S.

U.S. officials said this is the first time such a joint exchange of war artifacts has occurred. The two defense leaders agreed to return the papers to the families of the deceased soldiers.

During the meeting with Panetta, Vietnamese officials said they would open the three previously restricted sites that the Pentagon believes are critical to locating troops missing in action.

The letters were written by U.S. Army Sgt. Steve Flaherty, who was from Columbia, S.C. and was with the 101st Airborne. He was killed in the northern section of South Vietnam in March 1969. According to defense officials, Vietnamese forces took Flaherty's letters and used them in broadcasts during the war.

Vietnamese Col. Nguyen Phu Dat kept the letters, but it was not until last August, when he mentioned them in an online publication, that they started to come to light.

Early this year, Robert Destatte, a retired Defense Department employee who had worked for the POW/MIA office, noticed the online publication, and the Pentagon began to work to get the letters back to Flaherty's family.

The small diary belonged to Vu Dinh Doan, a Vietnamese soldier who was found killed in a machine gun fight, according to defense officials. Officials said that a Marine, Robert "Ira" Frazure of Walla Walla, Wash., saw the diary—with a photo and some money inside—on the chest of the dead soldier and took it back to the U.S.

The diary came to light earlier this year when the sister of a friend of Frazure's was doing research for a book and Frazure asked her help in returning the diary. The sister, Marge Scooter, brought the diary to the PBS television program History Detectives.

World

Nigerian airplane crashes, killing all 153 onboard

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)—A commercial airliner crashed into a densely populated neighborhood in Nigeria's largest city on Sunday, killing all 153 people on board and others on the ground in the worst air disaster in nearly two decades for the troubled nation.

The cause of the Dana Air crash remained unknown Sunday night, as firefighters and police struggled to put out the flames around the wreckage of the Boeing MD83 aircraft. Authorities could not control the crowd of thousands gathered around to see the crash site, with some crawling over the plane's broken wings and standing on a still-smoldering landing gear.

Harold Demuren, the director-general of Nigeria's Civil Aviation Authority, said all on board the flight were killed in the crash. Lagos state government said in a statement that 153 people were on the flight traveling from Nigeria's central capital of Abuja to Lagos in the nation's southwest.

The flight's pilots radioed to the Lagos control tower just before the crash, saying the plane had engine trouble, a military official said. The official spoke on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to speak to journalists.

Rescue officials feared many others were killed or injured on the ground, but no casualty figures were immediately available. Firefighters and local residents were seen carrying the corpse of a man from one building, its walls still crumbling and flames shooting from its roof more than an hour after the crash.

President Goodluck Jonathan later declared three days of national mourning in Africa's most populous nation.

Jonathan "prays that God Almighty will grant the families of the victims of the plane crash the courage and fortitude to bear their irreparable loss," a statement from his office read.

The aircraft appeared to have landed on its belly into the dense neighborhood that sits along the typical approach path taken by aircraft heading into Lagos' Murtala Muhammed International Airport. The plane tore through roofs, sheared a mango tree and rammed into a woodworking studio, a printing press and at least two large apartment buildings in the neighborhood before stopping.

A white, noxious cloud rose from the crash site that burned onlookers' eyes, as pieces of the plane lay scattered around the muddy ground.

While local residents helped carry fire hoses to the crash site, the major challenges of life in oil-rich Nigeria quickly became apparent as there wasn't any water to put out the flames more than three hours later. Some young men carried plastic buckets of water to the fire, trying to douse small portions. Fire trucks, from the very few that are stationed in Lagos state with a population of 17.5 million, couldn't carry enough water. Officials commandeered water trucks from nearby construction sites, but they became stuck on the narrow, crowded roads, unable to reach the crash site.

AP

People gather at the site of a plane crash in Lagos, Nigeria, Sunday, June 3, 2012. A commercial airliner crashed into a densely populated neighborhood in Nigeria's largest city on Sunday, killing all 153 people on board and others on the ground in the worst air disaster in nearly two decades for the troubled nation.

Syrian leader likens bloody crackdown to surgery

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian President Bashar Assad defended his government's crackdown on opponents Sunday, saying a doctor performing messy emergency surgery does not have blood on his hands if he is trying to save a patient.

In his first speech since January, Assad appeared unmoved by scathing international criticism of his ferocious response to the 15-month-old revolt against his rule, which has killed up to 13,000 people, according to activist groups. He also denied responsibility for last week's Houla massacre of more than 100 people, saying not even "monsters" would carry out such an ugly crime.

He said terrorists have pushed his country into war.

"When a surgeon in an operating room ... cuts and cleans and amputates, and the wound bleeds, do we say to him your hands are stained with blood?" Assad said in a televised speech to parliament. "Or do we thank him for saving the patient?"

Assad insisted the revolt was the work of foreign-backed extremists—not reformers seeking change.

Although the country has faced widespread international condemnation since Syrian troops unleashed a relentless crackdown on protesters last year, a massacre last week in the central region of Houla has brought fresh urgency to solving the crisis.

The opposition and the government have exchanged accusations over the Houla killings, each blaming the other for the house-to-house killings of more than 100 people, many of them small children. U.N. investigators have said there are strong suspicions that pro-regime gunmen are responsible for at least some of the killings.

Assad denied his forces had anything to do with Houla.

"Not even monsters would carry out (the crimes) that we have seen, especially the Houla massacre. ... There are no Arabic or even human words to describe it," he said in his first public comments about the mass killing.

Assad did acknowledge the toll the crisis has taken on the country, suggesting all the blood that has been spilled is necessary to root out the forces working to drive him from power.

"Today we are defending a cause and a country," he said. "We do not do this because we like blood. A battle has been forced on us, and the result is this bloodshed that we are seeing."

Members of the Syrian opposition brushed off his comments as meaningless.

"It is a desperate and silly speech that does not merit a response," said Adib Shishakly, a Saudi-based member of Syria's main opposition group, the Syrian National Council. "He didn't offer anything to the Syrian people during the 70 minutes he spoke."

Shishakly, the grandson of a former president of Syria, described Assad's statements on the Houla massacre as "lies to justify the killings because of the immense international pressure on his regime."

The U.S. has taken advantage of the global outrage over Houla to reach out to Syria's most important ally and protector, Russia, to join a coordinated effort to resolve the deadly conflict. Russia has provided a layer of protection for Damascus, refusing to support any move that could lead to foreign intervention in Syria.

A Russian Foreign Ministry statement issued Sunday said Russia was awaiting the results of the investigation into the massacre at Houla and was disturbed that some countries went ahead and cast blame.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton on Sunday pressed Russia to join international efforts for a political transition in Syria that would see Assad driven from power, and suggested greater flexibility could come from a previous recalcitrant Moscow.

America's top diplomat told reporters in Sweden that she made clear in a telephone conversation this weekend with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov that Moscow must do its part to help Syria turn the page after four decades under the Assad family control.

Victims of Egypt's old regime still await justice

CAIRO (AP)—Tied to a bed, Nasr al-Sayed Hassan Nasr was tortured for days with electric shocks during his 2010 detention for membership in the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood—one of tens of thousands of political prisoners under Hosni Mubarak's 29-year rule.

Stripped and handcuffed in a painful position, Nasr described how security agents shocked his genitals, chest and other bodies parts. "They hadn't asked me a single question at this stage. They seemed to just want me to collapse," he told Human Rights Watch.

And, as with virtually all the abuses under Mubarak's regime, the perpetrators were never brought to justice.

The mixed verdict in Mubarak's trial Saturday is a painful reminder that 15 months after the authoritarian leader's ouster in a popular uprising, there has been no move to bring about full accountability for wrongdoing under his regime.

Mubarak, 84, and his ex-security chief Habib el-Adly were both convicted of failing to stop the killings of some 900 protesters during last year's uprising and were sentenced to life in prison. However, six top police commanders were acquitted of ordering the killings and chief Judge Ahmed Rifaat criticized the prosecution for failing to provide evidence that police killed protesters.

In addition, Mubarak and his two sons were acquitted of corruption charges because the statute of limitations had expired.

The verdict has brought a new sense of urgency to bring justice to victims of abuses under Mubarak's regime.

On Sunday, lawmakers presented to parliament a "revolutionary justice" bill drawn up by rights activists that would create special courts to try members of Mubarak's regime for crimes including torture and corruption. Judges on the special courts would be required to have no ties to the old regime, and judicial bodies would be created to collect evidence and testimony.

"For me, the big takeaway of yesterday's verdict is that the human rights community should have pushed for torture prosecutions from Ministry of Interior officials in the immediate aftermath of the uprising because that was our one opportunity before the system started pushing back," said Heba Morayef, a researcher for Human Rights Watch in Egypt.

"The problem was that we were all busy dealing with new cases of torture and other abuses at the hands of the military. But the result is that Ministry of Interior impunity for torture is intact," she said.

Under Mubarak, tens of thousands of political prisoners were detained under emergency laws that expired last week after 31 years in force. And while there were no mass killings along the lines of South Africa during apartheid, torture was systematic, and often extreme, and corruption was endemic.

"Torture is the official state policy and not only the responsibility of an officer here or there," al-Nadim, an Egyptian rights group that chronicles torture cases, said in a 2007 report.

The same torture practices were repeatedly used in detention centers, it said, including "beatings, flogging, burning with lit cigarette butts, rape threats, covering eyes, stripping the detainees naked."

WORLD BRIEFS

Car bombing at north Nigeria church kills 15

BAUCHI, Nigeria (AP)—A suicide car bomber drove into a church compound in northern Nigeria Sunday and detonated his explosives as worshippers left an early morning service, killing at least 15 people and wounding dozens more, officials and witnesses said. The bomber targeted the Living Faith church, in a neighborhood near the airport in Bauchi, the capital of Bauchi state. The timed blast caught many people outside the church without any cover to protect themselves from the explosion, causing heavy casualties, witnesses said. At least 15 people died in the blast, not counting the suicide bomber, the Nigerian Red Cross said, while more than 30 people suffered injuries.

Dozens of guns seized inside Venezuelan prison

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Authorities seized about 125 guns stashed inside a prison following a standoff between armed inmates and troops that ended more than two weeks ago, Venezuela's prisons chief said Sunday. Officials are carrying out an exhaustive search of La Planta prison in Caracas and they have found some guns by destroying floors and walls where the weapons had been hidden, said Iris Varela, the government's minister for prisons. She said about 40 percent of the vast prison has not yet been fully searched. Varela said at a news conference that the weaponry recovered included handguns, shotguns, one submachine gun, one telescopic sight, 27 explosive devices and more than 64,000 rounds of ammunition.

Focus

LONDON—Her face is everywhere: on stamps, coins, mugs and book covers. Her likeness has just been reproduced for the 23rd time at Madame Tussauds, London's famous wax museum. More visitors come to gawp at her house than probably any other residence in the world.

Queen Elizabeth II is Britain's 'most familiar enigma'

By HENRY CHU
Los Angeles Times

AP

Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, right, arrives at Chelsea Pier in London, before boarding the royal barge to participate in the Diamond Jubilee River Pageant, Sunday, June 3, 2012.

Yet after reigning over Britain for longer than most of her subjects have been alive, Queen Elizabeth II is the country's "most familiar enigma," in the words of one TV presenter.

Yes, the white-haired 86-year-old keeps up a grueling schedule of public appearances that would test someone half her age, especially during this season of celebration of her Diamond Jubilee, marking 60 years on the throne. This weekend, the queen kicks off a four-day extravaganza.

But a certain regal aloofness, a touch of otherworldliness that lends some credence to the title "Your Majesty," is a crucial component of her long success as monarch, some say.

"You do need a little bit of mystique," said Sue Daws, 52, who lives in northern Wales.

Note to heirs: You might want to work on that.

Elizabeth is the last member of the House of Windsor for whom royalty and celebrity don't overlap, or at least not by much, a distinction many observers credit with helping to preserve the monarchy's appeal.

Her discretion and dignity are in marked contrast to the behavior of her four children. Unlike them, she doesn't submit to tell-all interviews about unhappy marriages, hasn't had details of her sex life laid bare in the tabloids, didn't take part (not even for charity) in an embarrassing game show called "The Grand Knockout" in 1987 (as did Princess Anne and Princes Andrew and Edward, in a moment that for many Britons represented "the breaking of royalty's magic spell," as one writer later put it).

Just last month, viewers of the BBC in Scotland switched on the TV to find their future king, Prince Charles, giving the daily weather report in his immaculately clipped tones, a surprise appearance that's become a minor hit on YouTube. ("Potential for a few flurries over Balmoral (Castle)," he said of his family's Scottish quarters, then stopped and asked, "Who the hell wrote this script?")

Although it was a good-natured and generally well-received cameo, a spot of hammy humor from an often stuffy heir apparent, no one can possibly imagine the woman he calls "Mama" doing the same thing.

"The queen has always avoided what she calls stunts," said Robert Lacey, author of the just-published "The Queen: A Life in Brief." "The monarchy has got to distinguish itself from other aspects of British public life."

Part of Elizabeth's aura of solemn reserve is natural to her temperament and her generation, with its harrowing experience of world war and its innate aversion to making a spectacle. Lacey notes that she grew up in the era depicted in the movie "The King's Speech"—the king in question was her father—when mass media were still novelties and engaging them wasn't automatically part of the British sovereign's job description.

But some of the queen's detached grandeur is carefully cultivated and maintained.

There are countless biographies, but no autobiography. Her public comments are polite, unexceptionable and totally unrevealing. Everyone knows about her love of dogs and horses, but only those closest to her have any real inkling of the thoughts beneath the diamond tiaras and behind the guarded smile.

"She is the most portrayed individual in history, more than anyone you can think of—popes, prime ministers, presidents," said Paul Moorhouse, curator of a new exhibition, "The Queen: Art & Image," at the National Portrait Gallery here in London. "The paradox is, what does anyone know about her? Her opinions are a closed book. Nobody but her intimate family knows what she thinks."

Royal protocol certainly helps perpetuate the idea of a person set above and apart. At meals, guests are supposed to stop eating when the queen does. (It's said she keeps a final morsel on her plate to roll around so that others can keep noshing without embarrassment.) Even her family members have to rise when she enters.

"Whenever Granny walks into a room, everyone stands up, stops and just kind of watches her," her granddaughter Princess Eugenie told the BBC recently.

"I find that incredible. I kind of go, 'Ah,'" Eugenie said, feigning a gasp.

But with that air of exaltedness comes a delicate juggling act, royal watchers and historians say.

Though fundamentally unknowable, the queen can't be too distant and unapproachable. At the same time, she must somehow give the impression of being close to her people. Her private motto is, "I have to be seen to be believed."

"In modern times, the British monarchy has been an accommodation of two opposing factors. One is a sense of aloofness or majesty or royalty, and the other is the opposite, the sense of being almost an ordinary human being," said Michael Billig, a social scientist at Loughborough University. "If they don't get that balance right, they're likely to be unpopular."

Hence her many appearances opening hospitals, christening ships and inspecting military regiments, always in her trademark hat and pearls. In fact, when Britons are asked to explain their admiration of the queen, many talk about how diligent she is in dispatching her duties, how the "old girl" soldiers on despite her age. She is only the second British monarch to reach 60 years on the throne and celebrate a diamond jubilee; the first was her great-great-grandmother Victoria, 115 years ago.

"The queen has become popular because there she is, an elderly woman who's still working," Billig said. "That's a very down-to-earth assessment."

Popular is right: The left-wing Guardian, which is staunchly republican on its editorial pages, nonetheless published a front-page story last month on the record popularity that "brand Windsor" currently enjoys.

The queen consistently ranks as the most beloved representative of that brand; thousands of well-wishers greet her wherever she goes, eager for some sort of connection. The question is how well the royal family will be able to sustain that semi-magical appeal once she's gone.

Many of the queen's numerous progeny maintain just as taxing a regimen of charity work, royal "walkabouts" and other ornamental appearances.

Yet unlike her, they have all had the veil of mystery stripped away to some degree, often in the most unflattering of ways. Prince Charles' recorded phone conversation with his then-mistress, now-wife, Camilla Parker-Bowles, still induces winces more than 20 years later, particularly the royal references to feminine hygiene products.

That kind of exposure might be in keeping with modern celebrity, but doesn't necessarily suit a centuries-old monarchy.

"When (the queen) goes, it'll completely change. It'll turn the corner," said Daws of north Wales. "If you look now, they're very touchy-feely, whereas with her, there's this boundary around her."

Author Lacey said that even the regular-bloke-ish Prince William, the second in line whose wedding to Kate Middleton a year ago set off a breathless bout of royal mania, may discover to his regret later that it's possible for the monarchy to be too of-the-people.

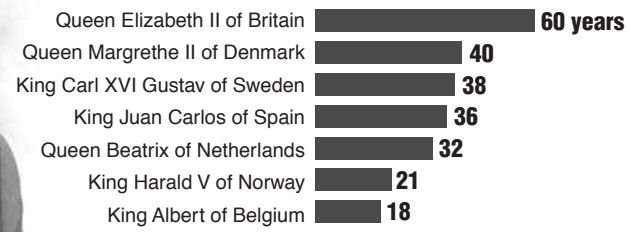
"He and Kate are a glamorous couple who chose Los Angeles, of all places, as somewhere to stop on their first foreign tour. Will people feel the same about them in 20 years' time, or will they not feel too much familiarity?" Lacey said.

"That's the risk, or the challenge, that lies ahead for the monarchy: how to maintain its mystique in an age of popular access," Lacey said. "It's what distinguishes royal celebrities from all others."

Six decades of reign

This year marks Queen Elizabeth II's 60th year as head of state, making her the longest serving among Europe's current monarchs.

Reigning monarchs of Europe



The Queen's reign

1952-1961

1952 Feb. 6 Elizabeth's father King George VI dies; she ascends to the throne

1953 June 2 coronation

1960 Second son, Prince Andrew, born

1962-1971

1962 Buckingham Palace opened to the public for the first time

1964 Third son, Prince Edward, born

1969 Oldest son Prince Charles invested as Prince of Wales

1972-1981

1972 Queen and Duke of Edinburgh's 25th wedding anniversary

1973 Daughter Princess Anne marries Captain Mark Phillips

1977 Silver Jubilee, 25 years as sovereign

1981 Wedding of Prince Charles to Lady Diana Spencer

1982-1991

1982 Prince Andrew serves as helicopter pilot in Falkland War, returns safely; grandson Prince William is born

1986 Queen celebrates her 60th birthday

1991 Gulf War; first British monarch to address a joint session of U.S. Congress

1992-2002

1996 Prince Charles and Princess Diana, Prince Andrew and Duchess Sarah divorce

1997 Princess Diana dies

1999 Wedding of Prince Edward and Sophie Rhys-Jones

2000 Queen mother's 100th birthday

2002 Sister Princess Margaret and queen mother both die

2002-2012

2005 Prince Charles marries Camilla Parker-Bowles

2006 Queen celebrates her 80th birthday

2011 Prince William marries Catherine Middleton; queen visits Ireland, the first state visit by a British monarch

2012 Diamond Jubilee Tour around the U.K.

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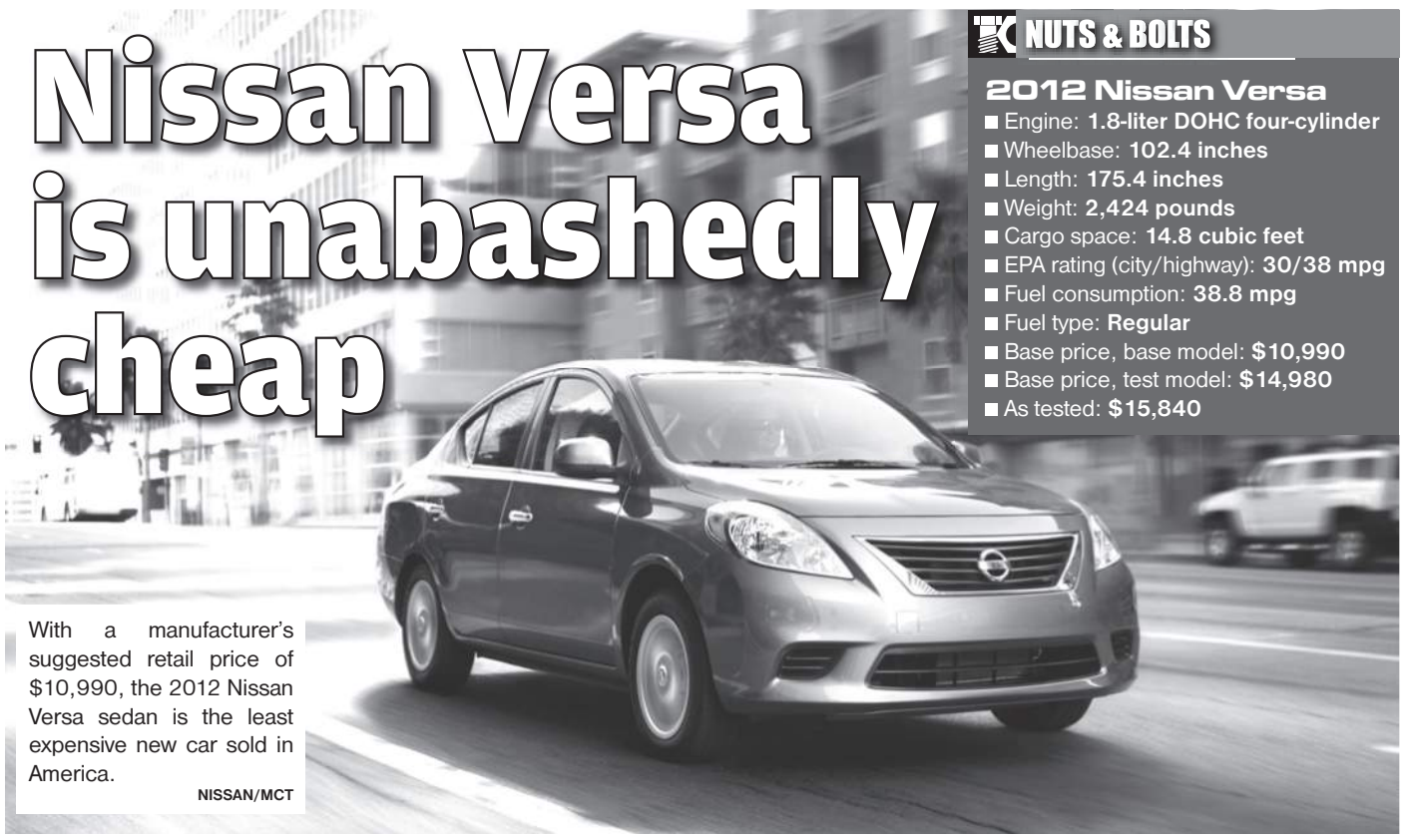
Source: The British Monarchy, BBC, MCT Photo Service
Graphic: Melina Yingling

Overdrive

Nissan Versa is unabashedly cheap



With a manufacturer's suggested retail price of $10,990, the 2012 Nissan Versa sedan is the least expensive new car sold in America.

NISSAN/MCT

NUTS & BOLTS

2012 Nissan Versa

- Engine: **1.8-liter DOHC four-cylinder**
- Wheelbase: **102.4 inches**
- Length: **175.4 inches**
- Weight: **2,424 pounds**
- Cargo space: **14.8 cubic feet**
- EPA rating (city/highway): **30/38 mpg**
- Fuel consumption: **38.8 mpg**
- Fuel type: **Regular**
- Base price, base model: **$10,990**
- Base price, test model: **$14,980**
- As tested: **$15,840**

By LARRY PRINTZ
THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

Meet the least expensive new car sold in America: the 2012 Nissan Versa sedan with a manufacturer's suggested retail price of $10,990, an ideal entry point for a Wal-Mart nation.

The Versa I'm talking about is the four-door sedan, which was redesigned for 2012. The funky five-door hatchback, with its 122-horsepower engine and a $14,480 starting price, remains unchanged from 2011.

While the five-door retains its funky vibe, the four-door is significantly more sober in its style. Still, being well-versed in Versa means knowing the car's mission: providing basic, affordable transportation. So it's little surprise that the Versa sedan's cabin is built to a price and is filled with hard plastic surfaces. The seats are the interior's only padded surface and they're fairly flat, but more comfortable than you might expect.

But look past that and you'll find the Versa's cabin is spacious for an inexpensive ride. There's good head and leg room for four adults. Even the glove box is large; it can hold an iPad with room to spare. Trunk space is just as impressive with a 14.8 cubic-foot rating—as sizable as some luxury sedans.

Once rolling, you'll find the front-drive Versa's ride is fairly comfortable for a small car. Bumps are suppressed with little discomfort for passengers. This comes at a price: There's noticeable body lean in corners, while the suspension tops off over the worst bumps and expansion joints.

The 109-horsepower, four-cylinder engine gives up 13 hp to the hatchback, but the sedan weighs less. It comes with a five-speed manual in base S trim, or a continuously variable automatic transmission on S, SV and SL models.

Power is adequate for a grocery getter, but like many vehicles with CVT transmissions, the engine moans as the CVT reluctantly responds to requests for more power. But don't jab the throttle hard and fast. The transmission responds in a panic, sending the suspension flopping about in response.

Mileage, however, is excellent. Driving around Virginia's Hampton Roads region returned an average of 38.8 mpg. Around town, mileage came in around 30 mpg, so the EPA estimates are accurate.

Braking is OK, with decent pedal feel. Steering is quick, although it feels somewhat vague on center.

The cabin is peaceful at times. Road and tire noise are noticeable, and engine noise is pronounced when more juice is needed from under the hood.

Opting for a few frills on the more lavish SV trim level nets upgraded cloth upholstery, a four-speaker AM/FM/CD audio system, anti-lock brakes, traction control, stability control, electronic brake force distribution and brake assist, keyless entry, remote trunk release, power locks and windows, cruise control and a six-way adjustable driver's seat.

The test car's optional "Convenience Package" adds a Bluetooth hands-free phone system, steering wheel-mounted audio controls, iPod interface, front map lights and a passenger side vanity mirror. This makes the car more livable, despite the absence of a front or rear center armrest, driver's side vanity mirror, telescopic steering wheel or center console box.

Still, there's a lot that makes up for the Versa's lack of poshness, personality and handling prowess. And it's the three things that matter most to many subcompact buyers: minimum price, maximum space and frugal fuel consumption.

What you get with the Versa sedan is a useful, inexpensive transportation appliance. It isn't high art; it's automotive Calvinism.

Given today's economic climate, that makes the Versa perfect for many drivers.

UNDER THE HOOD

High-tech transmission still needs maintenance

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

QUESTION: I have a 2007 Ford Freestyle SEL AWD with a continuously variable transmission, or CVT. I don't know much about the CVT other than it has no traditional gears and it is supposed to get better mileage. My question relates to maintenance. Does the CVT fluid ever need to be drained and new fluid added? How about the CVT filter? I am getting different opinions about the transmission's care and feeding. Some say maintenance is not needed, but that concerns me, given the complexity and cost of the transmission. I know you have the right answers.—P.H.

ANSWER: Your CVT uses two variators, or variable-diameter pulleys, and a chain to provide an infinite number of drive ratios instead of the four or five fixed ratios found in a typical automatic transmission. This allows the engine to run at its most efficient speed for a variety of driving conditions, without power interruptions from shifts, improving fuel economy. Sophisticated electronic controls direct hydraulic pressure to adjust the variators and a single planetary gear set provides reverse gear.

Ford recommends renewing the special CVT fluid, called Motorcraft Continuously Variable Chain Type Transmission Fluid, every 60,000 miles along with the high-pressure case filter. This filter is located within a small housing attached to the outside of the transmission, supplementing another filter in the oil pan; there's no interval mentioned for the latter. A drain plug allows five quarts of fluid to be drained. Another five are captive within the torque converter and various passages. Checking or adjusting fluid level must be done at a specified temperature as the CVT fluid expands differently than conventional fluid—194F to check and 114F to adjust, idling in park. Fluid color is blue-green and darkens with age to brown.

■■■

Q: I love reading your column and trying to troubleshoot odd problems. Mine is with my daughter's 2003 Oldsmobile Alero. Sometimes when she starts the car in the morning, there is no power to any dashboard lights or gauges, radio, or heater blower and defroster. After a few minutes, sometimes 10 or 20, everything comes back on.

I have never observed the problem, so I tried pulling every relay and fuse that I could find in both the driver's-side fuse box and the under-hood fuse box one at a time, but none of them would disable all of the functions mentioned above. Any ideas would be greatly appreciated. My daughter is going to school 300 miles away, so I don't get a chance to work on the car very often.—John

A: John, I did my best to scour the power distribution diagrams for the Alero, looking for a common element but ended up with a bunch of possibly unnoticed additional symptoms for your daughter to check for. As great as her description was, the complexity of the Alero's electrical system calls for a more detailed check of what does and doesn't work at the time the gremlins play their trick.

As time-consuming as this may be, she should check stoplights, hazard lights, the complete function of the heating and ventilation controls, headlight dimming, and various body system functions, such as windows, door locks, mirrors—basically, everything she can think of. With a comprehensive list of what's working and what isn't, it should be possible to pin down the cause to a particular connector, junction bar or conductor within the right or left side instrument panel or underhood fuse box.

It sounds odd, but knowing what does work is just as helpful as what doesn't.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Brake rotors don't last forever

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: The past six GMC vehicles I've owned were low-mileage used vehicles. The first major problem is always brake rotors and pads. I fight tooth and nail with the dealership to have something done.

I noticed that your reply to the lady buying a used, low-mileage vehicle included: "The vehicle may need routine tire and brake replacement." Tire replacement is a given and a no-brainer. What is your meaning as to routine brake replacement and especially the rotors? Brake pads I understand, and I treat them as I would tires.

I would like someone to tell me what to do to make this situation less costly. Just like clockwork, I can expect in the next year or so to have to pay out $800 to $900 to have all four rotors replaced on my vehicle, which has less than 38,000 miles. How can I avoid this?

ANSWER: I've always considered brake rotors—like brake pads—as "consumable" components. Granted, back in the day rotors seemed to last longer, but today's motor vehicles no longer use asbestos and feature more aggressive metallic and ceramic friction materials that operate at higher temperatures and generate measurable wear on brake rotors. The benefit is better stopping power and fade resistance. The price is more wear on the rotors.

I'm also not a big fan of turning brake rotors. Today's rotors are already close to their minimum thickness when new. By thinning the rotors, their ability to dissipate heat is reduced, causing more rapid wear and distortion. It is possible to "true" a slightly warped rotor, but once significantly worn, warped or out-of-round, it's time for replacement. You certainly can shop brake work among dealers and independents, and aftermarket brake rotors are often significantly less expensive.

I think it's time for you to accept the fact that replacing brake rotors once or twice during the life of a modern motor vehicle is relatively normal and routine.

■■■

Q: I have a 2005 Mercury Mariner with 135,000 miles on it. I've been told by a dealer that it needs brakes. The steering wheel does shake at high speeds when I apply the brakes, but my vehicle info center says the brakes are OK. I've also been told major parts in the front end also need replacing for $700 to $800.

A: The shake when applying the brakes is typically caused by a problem with the front brake rotors. They are either worn, warped or out of round. When you apply the brake pedal, the uneven surface of the rotor kicks the brake pads back, causing the master cylinder to pulse the brake pedal. The dealer or shop should be able to show you the wear, run-out or out-of-round with a dial indicator. Specifications for warping or run-out is 0.0005 inches, and thickness variation is 0.0002 inches.

The vehicle information center will tell you only when the brake pads are worn, not when the rotors are warped. So, your vehicle does need brakes. At this mileage, I would replace both front rotors and brake pads as well as check the rear brakes.

Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car, *is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at paulbrand@startribune.com.*

Life&Style

20-year-old Rhode Island cellist wins Miss USA

AP

Miss Rhode Island Olivia Culpo waves to the audience after being crowned Miss USA during the 2012 Miss USA pageant, Sunday, June 3, 2012, in Las Vegas.

By CRISTINA SILVA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A 20-year-old cellist from Rhode Island won the Miss USA crown and will represent the United States in this year's Miss Universe pageant after voicing support for transgender beauty queens.

Olivia Culpo topped a field of 51 contestants on Sunday to take the title at the Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino on the Las Vegas Strip. She strutted across the stage in a lilac bikini and a fuchsia evening gown adorned with a sparkly belt.

In the dreaded interview round, Culpo was faced with the most difficult question of the night: "Would you feel it would be fair that a transgender woman wins the Miss USA title over a natural-born woman?" Culpo never stumbled as she embraced the Miss Universe Organization's recent decision to admit transgender contestants. The question came from a pageant follower on Twitter, a first for the competition.

"I do think that that would be fair, but I can understand that people would be a little apprehensive to take that road because there is a tradition of natural-born women, but today where there are so many surgeries and so many people out there who have a need to change for a happier life, I do accept that because I believe it's a free country," Culpo said.

Culpo said after the pageant that she wasn't put off by the question when she heard it.

"This is a free country and to each their own," she said.

Culpo said she was short and chubby as a girl, but blossomed after a growth spurt. She spent her summers at band camp after learning to play the cello in second grade. Her parents are also musicians, and her love for music saw her perform at Symphony Hall in Boston and Carnegie Hall in New York City.

Culpo is a 2010 graduate of St. Mary Academy Bay View, an all-girls Catholic school in Riverside, where she was a member of the National Honor Society. She is a sophomore at Boston University and said she comes from a big, Italian family. On her Twitter account, she describes herself as a nerd and model.

"I was just so surprised, so shocked, so honored to be there," she said of her win.

Rounding out the top five contestants were first runner-up Nana Meriwether of Maryland, second runner-up Audrey Bolte of Ohio, third runner-up Jade Kelsall of Nevada and fourth runner-up Jasmyn Wilkins of Georgia. As Meriwether and Culpo held hands waiting for the winner to be announced, Culpo bit her lip and cringed with anticipation.

Culpo demonstrated an outgoing personality throughout the competition, blowing a kiss and shimmying across the stage during the opening number. She cited Audrey Hepburn as her source of inspiration, noting her many years of volunteer work. Culpo said she plans to visit Tiffany & Co. in New York during her reign as Miss USA to recreate the opening scene in Hepburn's iconic film "Breakfast at Tiffany's."

"She was beautiful on the outside but also beautiful on the inside," said Culpo, who sang the chorus of "Funny Face" from her favorite movie of the same name after her win.

Miss Iowa USA Rebecca Hodge was named Miss Congeniality, and Miss Oregon USA Alaina Bergsma was named the most photogenic. They both won $1,000, but didn't make the top 16.

During the interview round, Bolte appeared to stumble as she answered a question about whether women are portrayed positively in films. Bolte said women generally depict strong characters, citing Julia Robert's role as a prostitute in "Pretty Woman."

"She was having a rough time, but, you know, she came out on top," Bolte said.

The pageant at the Planet Hollywood casino on the Las Vegas Strip had three competitions: swimsuit, evening gowns and interview question. The contestants were whittled to 16 after the show's opening fashion show number. The top 16 were picked by preliminary judges through competitions and interviews during the week before the telecast.

The contestants were later narrowed down to a field of 10 and then five before Culpo was named Miss USA.

Pop band Cobra Starship performed as the beauty queens modeled their string bikinis. Singer Akon danced with the top five during the evening gown competition.

Culpo had one of the more modest dresses of the contest, with many of the beauty queens wearing revealing gowns with bare backs, high slits and sheer fabric. In contrast, Culpo's flowing gown covered her legs and back while revealing some cleavage.

The judge's panel included Chef Cat Cora, TV personality Arsenio Hall, singer Joe Jonas and reality TV star Rob Kardashian. Andy Cohen and Giuliana Rancic stepped in to host. Miss USA 2011 Alyssa Campanella crowned Culpo her successor at the end of the night.

Culpo will represent the United States at the 61st Miss Universe pageant in December. An American has not been named Miss Universe since Brook Lee won the title in 1997.

The first-ever transgender contestant to compete in the Miss Universe Canada pageant made it to the penultimate round before losing her bid to win the title last month. She was initially denied entry to Canada's pageant because she was not born female. Donald Trump, who runs the Miss Universe Organization, subsequently overruled that decision.

Miss Universe publicity director Brenda Mendoza has said transgender competitors are now welcome at all of its pageants around the world.

The competition is not affiliated with the Miss America pageant.

In Celebration of His New Life

JOHN PANGELINAN VILLAGOMEZ
(BOSSING)

Born to life on January 22, 1956
and was called to his eternal rest on June 02,2012

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:
Pineksai: Michelle V. and Patrick C. Guerrero (Patrick)
Trenton John P. Villagomez
Brothers, Sister and In-Laws:
Margarita N. Tenorio and family
Carmen L. Villagomez
Juan A. Camacho and family
Manuel P. and Elizabeth F. Villagomez and family
Children and family of †Martin P. Villagomez
Jose P. and Patricia C. Villagomez and family
Frank P. and Rell A. Villagomez and family
Magdalena (Maggie) P. Villagomez

In his new life, he now joins his:
Parents: †Juan Cruz Villagomez and **†Luisa Pangelinan Villagomez**
Brothers, Sister and In-Law:
†Eugenio V. Tenorio
†Ricardo P. Villagomez
†Emilia V. Camacho
†Martin P. and †Frances C. Villagomez

Daily Mass of Intention is being celebrated for the repose of his soul at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 6:00am.

Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, June 09, 2012. His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:30am. Responso Service will be at 8:00am followed by Holy Rosary at 8:30am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am. Interment Service will follow immediately at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery where he will be at a peaceful rest.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

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Snow White and The Huntsman

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Monday thru Thursday		4:05	7:05	

Kristen Stewart, Chris Hemsworth
Fantasy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

The tale of Snow White is turned on its head with this reimagining starring Kristen Stewart as the fair maiden who has to escape from her fantasy land's Evil Queen (Charlize Theron) with the help of the dashing huntsman who was once ordered to kill her. Rupert Sanders helms from a script by Evan Daugherty. Ian McShane commands the seven dwarves, while the rest are played by Bob Hoskins, Toby Jones, Eddie Marsan, Stephen Graham, Ray Winstone, and Nick Frost.

Men In Black 3

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:45
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:45
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday thru Thursday		4:20	7:20	

Will Smith, Tommy Lee Jones
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Will Smith, Tommy Lee Jones, and director Barry Sonnenfeld return to the kooky world of the top-secret government agents who protect our planet from hostile aliens in this third entry of the Men in Black film series. This will be the first film in the franchise to be presented in 3D. Flight of the Conchords' Jemaine Clement co-stars as the main baddie, Yaz, with Josh Brolin lending his talents as the younger version of Jones' character.

★ ★ ★

Chernobyl Diaries

Friday		4:30	7:30	9:30
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:30
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday thru Thursday		4:30	7:30	

Jesse McCartney, Carey Van Dyke
Horror • Rated R

Battleship

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Liam Neeson, Taylor Kitsch
Science fiction, War • Rated PG 13

The Dictator

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Monday thru Thursday		4:25	7:25	

Sacha Baron Cohen, Anna Faris
Comedy • Rated R

Dark Shadows

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:50
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:50
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Monday thru Thursday		4:15	7:15	

Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter
Horror • Rated PG 13

Marvel's The Avengers

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:55
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:55
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Robert Downey, Jr., Chris Evans, Samuel L. Jackson
Action • Rated PG 13

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Lawyer asked to investigate Witherspoon case

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)—A Nashville judge has appointed a lawyer to investigate what's going on with actress Reese Witherspoon's father who is accused of bigamy and possibly has dementia, according to documents released in a sealed court case.

Earlier this month, Witherspoon's mother, Betty Witherspoon, said her husband of 42 years married another woman even though he remained wed to her.

A hearing in that case, which was scheduled for Thursday, has been indefinitely postponed. In the meantime, documents released from another Nashville court indicate that John Witherspoon was placed in a conservatorship at the request of the Academy Award-winning actress and her brother.

The actress appeared in a Nashville courtroom on May 11 with her father, a Nashville otolaryngologist, but a judge barred the media from covering the hearing.

The parents have been separated since 1996 but remain married and still attend family functions together, including their daughter's March 2011 wedding.

Betty Witherspoon said in court documents that she discovered that her husband married the other woman after reading a newspaper wedding announcement. She signed an affidavit saying that when she confronted her 70-year-old husband, he didn't know who the woman was or remember marrying her.

Witherspoon

Betty Witherspoon has accused John Witherspoon's new wife, Tricianne "Patricia" Taylor, of taking out loans as Mrs. John Witherspoon and changing his will.

"She vehemently denies those allegations," said Joe Brandon Jr., an attorney who represents Taylor. "She's devastated, and we don't have any further comment."

Betty Witherspoon, a 63-year-old nurse at Vanderbilt University hospital and a retired Tennessee State professor, says in the court documents that she still loves her husband and fears for his safety. She has accused him of taking out large loans for money.

"My husband's spending practices have accelerated," her affidavit says. "I now understand that he may have borrowed $400,000 at Bank of America and either forged my name or had his girlfriend posing as his wife sign."

Andy Garcia talks about 'Greater Glory'

NEW YORK (AP)—Andy Garcia can't understand why an episode of Mexican history as bloody as the Cristero War is barely known outside Mexico or even within the country.

That curiosity was part of the reason why he accepted the role of General Enrique Gorostieta in "For Greater Glory," a film the Cuban actor compares to epics like "How the West Was Won," ''Doctor Zhivago" or "Lawrence of Arabia."

"About 90,000 people died in three years (1926-1929). There was torture, priests being hung from telegraph poles. It was a very ugly moment in Mexican history," Garcia says of the conflict set off by the government's persecution of Roman Catholics. "The curious thing was I didn't know anything about it... And when I started to ask some Mexican friends...they didn't know anything about it."

In the film, which opens Friday in the U.S. after its debut in Mexico, Garcia plays an atheist and retired decorated general who accepts an offer to lead the National League for the Defense of Religious Liberty in the war. He doesn't share their religious fervor, but he does believe in the basic right of freedom.

Garcia

Garcia says he was intrigued by "For Greater Glory" from the moment director Dean Wright and producer Pablo Jose Barroso gave him the script and the book "La Cristiada," by French historian and columnist Jean Meyer, who lives in Mexico.

With a stellar cast that includes Eva Longoria as Gorostieta's wife and Ruben Blades as President Plutarco Elias Calles, "For Greater Glory" also stars Peter O'Toole—"Lawrence of Arabia" himself—as Father Christopher.

The Associated Press: So, from being fascinated by the story to actually filming the movie there was only one step?

Garcia: It was easy to commit to do this movie because, aside from the curious fact that people don't know the story, or maybe that they don't want people to talk about this, the script, the concept of the film, was extremely classical ... and I knew it was going to be a beautiful adventure.

AP: The film's historical situation can be compared to the religious ban in Cuba when Fidel Castro took power. As a Cuban-American Catholic, how do you see this parallel?

Garcia: It was similar to what happened in Cuba. When Fidel Castro took power he did abolish all religion ... The only religion was a "Papa Fidel" kind-of-thing. So there is a parallel there that one could sort of tap into emotionally. But that wasn't the reason to do the movie ... This is a universal theme about absolute freedom and when I looked at the movie, first and foremost I said as a filmmaker, as an actor, how was the quality of the material, the scope of the story, what is it gonna look like.

AP: There's a scene in the movie of you and Ruben Blades together that was not in the original script. I understand you two wrote it. What was it like to work with Ruben?

Garcia: When he got to Mexico, we had dinner that night. We talked about the story, what we thought was missing, and Ruben says, "But we must have a scene together!" And I said, "Actually I think that will be a good idea. The concept of these two leaders coming together and exploring the thematic of the movie could be very interesting." So we worked on the scene, we wrote it, and we presented it to the producer and the director and they liked it and we carved out a little moment to shoot the scene. And I think it is one of the most important scenes in the film.

AP: This drama takes place in the 1920s but its theme of freedom remains current and is universal. What do you expect the audience to take away from the movie?

Garcia: Well, I think that the overall essence is that freedom is a precious thing. People are fighting for freedom on a daily basis all around the world in contemporary society, and dying for it. This struggle has not gone away.

'Snow White' puts bite on box office with $56.3M

By DAVID GERMAIN
AP MOVIE WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Snow White & the Huntsman" turned out to be a fairer box-office beauty than Hollywood anticipated.

According to studio estimates Sunday, Universal Pictures' action yarn inspired by the fairy-tale princess debuted strongly at No. 1 with $56.3 million domestically. That's about $20 million higher than industry expectations.

Without the built-in business that generally goes with a sequel, "Snow White" was a question mark as a draw for young males who typically make up most of the action crowd. The movie wound up drawing a fairly even audience, with female fans accounting for 53 percent of viewers.

"We weren't even thinking we could do beyond $40 million, especially for a title where you didn't know if the males are going to show up. And they did," said Nikki Rocco, head of distribution for Universal.

Overseas, "Snow White" added $39.3 million in 45 markets, putting the worldwide total at $95.6 million for the movie that stars Kristen Stewart, Charlize Theron and Chris Hemsworth.

"Snow White" bumped Sony's "Men in Black 3" from the top spot and into second-place with $29.3 million. The Will Smith-Tommy Lee Jones sequel raised its domestic total to $112.3 million after two weekends and added $78.6 million overseas for an international take of $274.6 million and a worldwide gross of $386.9 million.

Disney's superhero sensation "The Avengers" remained strong at No. 3 with $20.3 million, lifting its domestic total to $552.7 million. "The Avengers" climbed past "The Dark Knight" at $533.3 million to become No. 3 all-time on the domestic revenue chart, behind "Avatar" at $760.5 million and "Titanic" at $658.5 million.

1. **"Snow White & the Huntsman,"** $56.3 million ($39.3 million international).
2. **"Men in Black 3,"** $29.3 million ($78.6 million international).
3. **"The Avengers,"** $20.3 million ($12.4 million).
4. **"Battleship,"** $4.8 million ($1.5 million international).
5. **"The Dictator,"** $4.7 million ($6.5 million international).
6. **"The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel,"** $4.6 million ($557,000 international).
7. **"What to Expect When You're Expecting,"** $4.4 million ($3.7 million international).
8. **"Dark Shadows,"** $3.9 million ($7.2 million international).
9. **"Chernobyl Diaries,"** $3 million.
10. **"For Greater Glory,"** $1.8 million.

Adding $12.4 million overseas, "The Avengers" pushed its international haul to $802.5 million and its worldwide earnings to $1.36 billion. That raised it past last year's "Harry Potter" finale at $1.33 billion to put "The Avengers" at No. 3 in all-time revenue worldwide, also behind only "Avatar" ($2.8 billion) and "Titanic" ($2.2 billion).

Ridley Scott's "Alien" forerunner "Prometheus," from 20th Century Fox, got off to a solid start overseas with $35 million in 15 markets ahead of its U.S. release Friday.

Though not a direct prequel, "Prometheus" stars Noomi Rapace, Michael Fassbender and Theron in a sci-fi adventure that takes place decades before the action of "Alien" and is set in a similar world as that 1979 horror tale from filmmaker Scott.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Where available, latest international numbers are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

'The Hunger Games' tops MTV Movie Awards

WINNERS' LIST

Winners from the 21st annual MTV Movie Awards:

- **Movie of the Year**: "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1."
- **Best Male Performance**: Josh Hutcherson, "The Hunger Games."
- **Best Female Performance**: Jennifer Lawrence, "The Hunger Games."
- **Breakthrough Performance**: Shailene Woodley, "The Descendants."
- **Best Comedic Performance**: Melissa McCarthy, "Bridesmaids."
- **Best Cast:** Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint and Tom Felton, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 2."
- **Best Hero**: Harry Potter, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 2."
- **Best Music**: LMFAO's "Party Rock Anthem," "21 Jump Street."
- **Best Kiss:** Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson, "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1."
- **Best Fight**: Jennifer Lawrence and Josh Hutcherson vs. Alexander Ludwig, "The Hunger Games."
- **Best On-Screen Dirtbag**: Jennifer Aniston, "Horrible Bosses."
- **Best On-Screen Transformation**: Elizabeth Banks, "The Hunger Games."
- **Best Gut-Wrenching Performance**: Kristen Wiig, Maya Rudolph, Rose Byrne, Melissa McCarthy, Wendi McLendon-Covey and Ellie Kemper, "Bridesmaids."
- **MTV Trailblazer Award**: Emma Stone.
- **MTV Generation Award**: Johnny Depp.

AP

Elisabeth Banks, center, accepts the award for best on screen transformation award at the MTV Movie Awards on Sunday, June 3, 2012, in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The fan votes—not just the odds—were in "The Hunger Games" favor at the MTV Movie Awards.

The dystopian survival saga escaped from Sunday's 21st annual extravaganza with the most golden popcorn-shaped trophies, including best fight for the film's final three-way battle and best on-screen transformation for Elizabeth Banks' over-the-top futuristic makeover. "Hunger Games" stars Jennifer Lawrence and Josh Hutcherson were also honored for best female and male performances.

"I've wanted to hold a golden popcorn since I was 4 years old," beamed Hutcherson.

With four wins out of eight nominations, "Hunger Games" didn't totally decimate the competition. "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows—Part 2" won prizes for best cast and best hero, while "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn—Part 1" won for movie of the year, and "Twilight" stars Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson locked the best kiss trophy for the fourth straight year.

"God, Rob's not here, you guys. I don't really know what to do," said Stewart, who pretended to make out with herself.

"Bridesmaids" walked away with two awards, though their wins weren't televised. The cast of the naughty comedy won best gut-wrenching performance for the scene in which the ladies battled food poisoning, and Melissa McCarthy won the best comedic performance award.

The live, fan-favorite ceremony was hosted by bawdy actor-comedian Russell Brand. He opened the show by poking fun of Michael Fassbender's full-frontal endowment in "Shame" and Kim Kardashian's short-lived marriage, which he acknowledged was hypocritical. (Brand filed for divorce last year from pop superstar Katy Perry, who performed at the Brand-hosted MTV Video Music Awards in 2009, after 14 months of marriage.)

"Tonight, I'm gonna keep my eyes peeled for my next wife," joked Brand. "Fasssssbender!"

In lieu of a wordy acceptance speech for his MTV Generation Award, the show's version of a lifetime achievement trophy, Johnny Depp performed with The Black Keys. Steven Tyler and Joe Perry presented the award to the 48-year-old "Pirates of the Caribbean" star, who accompanied The Black Keys on guitar for "Gold on the Ceiling" and "Lonely Boy."

"It's like the get-out-of-the-business award," said Depp.

Other winners Sunday included Shailene Woodley for breakthrough performance for "The Descendants," Jennifer Aniston as best on-screen dirtbag for "Horrible Bosses" and LMFAO's "Party Rock Anthem" from "21 Jump Street" for best music.

No joke: Bill Maher buys minority share of Mets

NEW YORK (AP)—No joke: Bill Maher owns a stake in the New York Mets.

The stand-up comic and political satirist was at Citi Field on Sunday and revealed that he bought a minority share of the team months ago. Mets senior vice president of marketing and communications David Newman confirmed the deal is done and that Maher is a new limited partner.

"That's what's great about baseball," Maher said. "I finally found something I can be a-political about."

Maher, who grew up nearby in New Jersey and said he has been a Mets fan his whole life, would not disclose how much he spent or how large a stake he owns.

The Mets' owners sought to raise cash after they were sued by the trustee seeking to recover money for victims of the Bernard Madoff Ponzi scheme. Hedge fund manager David Einhorn agreed in May 2011 to purchase a minority stake in the team for $200 million, but the Mets said Sept. 1 they were calling off that deal and instead wanted to sell limited partner shares for $20 million each.

Maher said he read about the opportunity in the newspaper in December and thought it would be a great investment.

"Especially after I've seen some of the ways money can disappear in recent years. I had my money in Lehman Brothers in 2008, so this looked pretty good," Maher said, drawing laughs. "I'm really happy that it's turned out that this team is good this year, because nobody picked them to be good."

Maher

In March, Mets owners Fred Wilpon and Saul Katz reached an agreement with the trustee for Madoff's fraud victims, averting a high-profile civil trial. The settlement makes it likely that Wilpon and Katz will pay much less than the agreed-upon $162 million, if any at all. It also guarantees they will owe nothing until the end of four years.

That same day, a person familiar with the team's finances said the Mets had closed on the sales of 12 limited partner shares for $20 million each. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity at that time because no public statement was authorized.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Nan Goldin wins prestigious MacDowell Medal

NEW YORK (AP)—Photographer Nan Goldin has received the received the prestigious Edwin MacDowell Medal for lifetime achievement in the arts. Goldin, 58, is known for her photographs of downtown New York in the 1970s and for her use of slideshows. In a statement released Sunday, MacDowell head judge Luc Sante praised Goldin for creating a medium "unto itself, halfway between still photography and cinema." Previous winners of the MacDowell Medal, founded in 1960, include John Updike, Merce Cunningham and Sonny Rollins. The medal is sponsored by the MacDowell artist colony in Peterborough, N.H.

Alexander apologizes for 'gay' cricket remark

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Actor Jason Alexander has apologized for joking during a TV talk show that he considers cricket to be a "gay" sport. In a blog post, the former "Seinfeld" star explained Sunday what led to his remark on CBS's Late Late Show. He writes that he at first didn't grasp why some might object to the comment, but that subsequent conversations with his gay friends led him to realize his insensitivity. Alexander's remarks came in Friday's show in which he tells host Craig Ferguson that aspects of cricket make it a "gay game" compared to other sports. The actor's 1,000-word-plus "message of amends" said that the joking remark plays into "hurtful assumptions and diminishments" about people. Alexander also writes that as an actor with many gay friends, he "should know better."

Girl who gave up virginity now feels used by a jerk

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I am a 17-year-old girl and have just gotten out of a seven-month relationship. I was a virgin until this relationship. I told my boyfriend, "Gavin," that I was a virgin and wanted to wait until I trusted him and felt that I loved him.

Well, the time came that I felt I did love and trust him, so I went ahead and had sex with him. After one month, Gavin decided he was sick of me! It seems like as soon as we started having sex, things started going downhill. I feel so hurt and used, I'm now starting to view sex negatively.

I know I'm young and have years of relationships in front of me. But are all men just out there for sex? If they are, it just doesn't seem worth it.

HURT AND CONFUSED

DEAR HURT AND CONFUSED: You have my sympathy. It appears that Gavin was more interested in the challenge you presented than in a lasting relationship. Not all men are that way, but most in your age group are because they are not yet emotionally or financially ready for a marriage commitment. Remember that, and you may avoid future heartache.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am 23, happily married and have two children. My question involves my 4 l/2-year-old, "Shelly," who is the result of a previous relationship. Her biological father left me after he found out I was pregnant. When I was almost ready to deliver, he called and asked me to come back to him, which I did, only to get dumped again one week before Shelly's birth.

Since then, I have married a wonderful man I met days before Shelly was born. He has adopted her, and he is the only daddy she has ever known.

My question is: When would be the best age for me to tell her about this?

CLUELESS IN MICHIGAN

DEAR CLUELESS: Your daughter should be told as soon as she's old enough to understand the difference between "biological" father and "adoptive" father. And when you do, tell her that her daddy fell in love with you both at the same time.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married for one week. We have been together for three years. The problem is his last girlfriend. She was married three years ago, but will not leave him alone.

It never fails that when we are out, and she and her husband are at the same place, she confronts my husband about how sorry she is for the past and wants him to take her back. He tells her it is over. Her husband knows that she does not love him but loves my husband.

I am so tired of this, Abby. What do I need to do the next time this happens? Do I call her and tell her to leave him alone?

STEAMING IN GARDEN CITY, KAN.

DEAR STEAMING: Do not call her. The next time it happens, your HUSBAND should tell her he is not interested, that he is happily married now, and that she is making herself and her husband look ridiculous.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Please tell me if there are any "rules" about a divorced woman wearing her wedding rings on her right hand. I am divorced, but my wedding rings are beautiful and I'd like to wear them on my right hand. Clear this up for me, please.

MAKING SURE IN IDAHO

DEAR MAKING SURE: No rule of etiquette forbids you from wearing your wedding rings on your right hand if you wish—many divorcees (and widows) do. Enjoy!

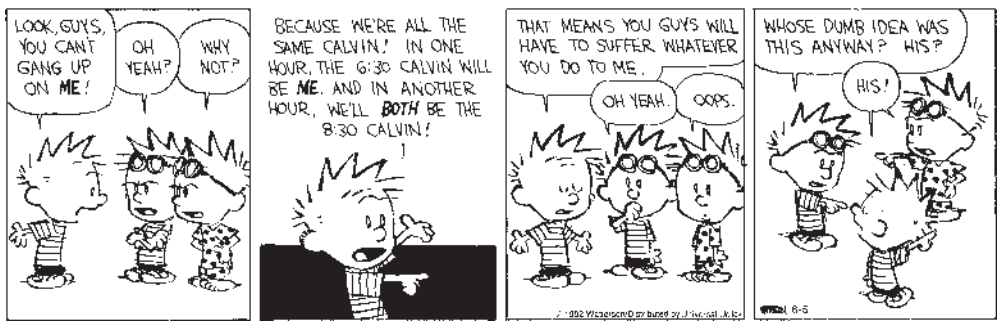
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


LOOK, GUYS, YOU CAN'T GANG UP ON ME!
OH YEAH?
WHY NOT?
BECAUSE WE'RE ALL THE SAME CALVIN! IN ONE HOUR, THE 6:30 CALVIN WILL BE ME. AND IN ANOTHER HOUR, WE'LL BOTH BE THE 8:30 CALVIN!
THAT MEANS YOU GUYS WILL HAVE TO SUFFER WHATEVER YOU DO TO ME.
OH YEAH.
OOPS.
WHOSE DUMB IDEA WAS THIS ANYWAY? HIS?
HIS!
6-5

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WHO WAS THAT?
MR. McCAFFREY. HE WANTS TO TALK.
SO?
OVER A ROUND OF GOLF.
OH, GOSH, NO!
I KNOW.
DID YOU TELL HIM ABOUT THE FIRE YOU ACCIDENTALLY STARTED LAST TIME?
ALL THOSE HOMELESS BIRDS AND RABBITS!
6-5

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

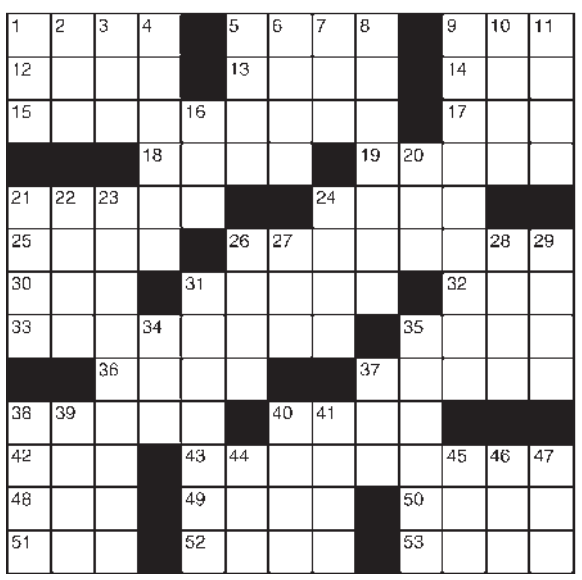
ACROSS
1 Pleasant
5 Arrest, slangily
9 Long crosser
12 Press
13 Colorful fish
14 Id counterpart
15 Huge victory
17 Eccentric
18 Like — of bricks
19 Wild West show
21 Inane
24 Antitoxins
25 Seed covering
26 Country-wide
30 Cooler
31 Heathen
32 Before
33 Try
35 Long story
36 Farm fraction
37 Cook-wear?
38 Cultural character
40 Verdi opera
42 CNN alumnus Dobbs
43 British capitalists?
48 Sun Yat- —
49 Sea eagle
50 Final blow
51 Superlative suffix
52 Favorable votes
53 Beefy entree

DOWN
1 Zero
2 A Gershwin
3 Opposed
4 Ultimate goal
5 Philippine knife
6 — arms
7 Despondent
8 Regarding that matter
9 Listen
10 Chills and fever
11 Dorothy's dog
16 Pigpen
20 Acapulco gold
21 Secure
22 Persia, now
23 "The Year of Living Dangerously" Oscar winner
24 Celebrity
26 Church area
27 Past
28 Jason's ship
29 Slender
31 Garnishing sprig
34 Environmentally friendly
35 Paddles
37 Fuss
38 Otherwise
39 "Piggies"
40 "— Karenina"
41 Mid-month date
44 Raw rock
45 Chow down
46 Deli loaf
47 Boar's mate

Solution time: 21 mins.

T	A	R	O	■	G	A	S	■	B	R	E	W
I	N	I	T	I	A	T	E	■	R	A	R	E
E	I	G	H	T	E	E	N	■	U	N	I	T
■	■	■	E	E	L	■	I	O	N	I	C	S
S	T	O	R	M	■	B	I	L	E	■	■	■
H	A	G	S	■	B	E	E	L	I	N	E	■
E	R	R	■	A	R	E	N	A	■	E	R	C
■	S	E	A	P	O	R	T	■	G	A	S	P
■	■	■	P	E	C	S	■	P	E	T	E	S
F	E	D	O	R	A	■	S	R	I	■	■	■
A	G	O	G	■	D	J	T	E	S	V	O	I
M	A	N	E	■	E	L	E	P	H	A	N	T
E	D	G	E	■	S	E	W	■	A	R	E	S

Yesterday's answer 6-5



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mike Fisher, 32; Mark Wahlberg, 41; Brian McKnight, 43; Ron Livingston, 45.

Happy Birthday: Seize opportunity as it arises. Don't wait for someone else to challenge you to what's rightfully yours. Focus on outsmarting, outmaneuvering and outdoing any competition you face. Make your moves meaningful and your comments pointed. Call the shots and follow through. Opportunity knocks. Don't let it pass you by. Your numbers are 5, 9, 16, 28, 33, 46, 48.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Speak from the heart, and you will capture the attention of someone who can offer you options. Travel plans or visiting new places will get you thinking about what will benefit you most. Consider starting your own business. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Getting together with old friends will bring back both good and bad memories. Don't fall into a recurring pattern that will set you back. Forward thinking followed by progressive action is the only path to take. Choose your friends carefully. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Jump at the chance to offer or receive a favor. Give-and-take will help you finish what you start. An expense will pay off if you invest in yourself and the skills you need to get ahead. Strive for greater security. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Hidden information will make you look bad. Offer what you can, but be careful not to promise more than you can deliver. If you want to make a good impression, you have to reach your quota or honor a promise. Use common sense. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Cooperation will be your ticket to success. Love is in the stars. Nurturing your current relationship or scouting around for the perfect partner will bring positive results. Stabilizing your personal life will help improve your domestic situation. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Cover your back, but don't withhold information in the process. You are only as good as your word, so make what you say and do today count. An after-hours business event will reconnect you with someone who can offer assistance. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Share your ideas with people who have common interests. Outsiders will be more helpful than those close to you. A new concept or philosophy will bring about a lifestyle change. Love will play a role in a decision you must make. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't take "no" for an answer. Collect what's owed to you. Put pressure on anyone who has been unfair. A new spin on an old partnership will bring greater equality to your relationship. Embrace change and strive for positive transformation. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Jump at any chance to share your plans with someone special. Love is on the rise, and positive changes at home will bring greater awareness of what you want long-term. Anger and jealousy are a waste of time. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't hide your feelings, or nothing will change. Take action and show your determination to get what you want. Don't let someone else's responsibilities stand in your way. You need enough freedom to do your own thing. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Take your goals seriously, and strive to be the person you want to be. Offer suggestions to someone with whom you want to spend more time. Making changes at home will benefit you financially and emotionally. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Avoid a scene. If discord prevails, move on before things get ugly. Don't prompt an altercation with someone because you are angry. It's better to walk away. A new space will help you re-establish your plans for the future. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a solutions person. You see, you decipher and you fix.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	5			2			3	
6				8				7
7								1
		8	1		7	9		
	6						4	
		5	8		3	1		
3								4
2				1				8
	7			9			6	

Difficulty Level ★★ 6/05

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	4	6	2	3	7	5	9	8
9	7	8	1	6	5	3	4	2
3	5	2	4	8	9	7	1	6
4	6	7	5	1	2	9	8	3
2	9	5	3	7	8	1	6	4
8	3	1	6	9	4	2	5	7
5	8	3	7	4	1	6	2	9
6	1	4	9	2	3	8	7	5
7	2	9	8	5	6	4	3	1

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

WORKAHOLICS Solution: 8 letters

P	T	B	N	O	T	A	R	Y	O	R	O	B	A	L
L	H	O	U	A	C	H	I	E	V	E	E	T	V	W
U	E	O	P	I	M	C	L	E	R	K	V	R	E	F
M	R	K	T	E	L	E	A	V	E	R	I	A	V	I
B	A	K	S	O	R	D	R	E	C	O	R	D	E	R
E	P	E	I	S	G	A	E	I	M	W	R	E	N	S
R	I	E	Y	L	N	R	T	R	F	P	A	S	I	T
E	S	P	P	E	I	O	A	O	O	E	L	K	N	E
E	T	E	O	D	D	T	S	P	R	T	S	O	G	P
R	D	R	C	O	R	I	T	R	H	E	C	A	Y	I
A	I	D	E	M	A	D	R	T	L	E	W	O	X	L
C	A	K	E	E	W	U	E	A	Ⓜ	I	R	A	D	O
H	P	L	E	H	E	A	S	S	Ⓘ	S	T	A	N	T
E	R	E	V	I	R	D	S	T	Ⓝ	E	G	A	M	E
F	I	T	N	E	S	S	A	D	Ⓓ	I	C	T	E	D

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Achieve, Addicted, Agent, Arrive, Assistant, Auditor, Bookkeeper, Builder, Career, Chef, Clerk, Copyist, Desk, Doctor, Driver, Employ, Evening, Fireman, First, Fitness, Help, Labor, Leave, Media, Mind, Models, Notary, Operator, Paid, Photographer, Pilot, Plumber, Recorder, Rewarding, Sales, Stress, Taxi, Therapist, Trades, Wage, Wear, Week, Worker

Yesterday's Answer: Shish Kebab

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UNITED STATES
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COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities is hereby gives notice that it will hold a **Special Meeting** on Thursday, June 07, 2012, from 10:30am – 2:00pm at the Caladium Hall, Laolao Bay Golf Resort, Kagman III.

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER
II. ROLL CALL
III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
IV. ADOPTION OF MINUTES – February 07, 2012
V. ACTION ITEMS
   a. Review & Approval of CDD's State Plan Amendment 2012-2016
   b. Review & Approval of FY 2013 Budget
VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VII. MISCELLANEOUS
VIII. NEXT MEETING
IX. ADJOURNMENT

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session.

In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 3 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Thomas J. Camacho
Chairman

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Pastimes
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- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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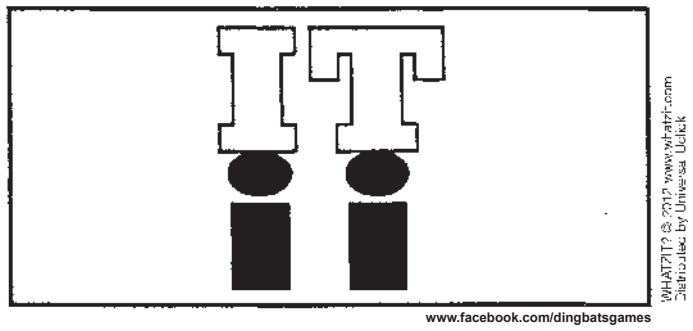

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Find today's solution in classified section

Celtics beat Heat in OT, tie East finals at 2-2

BOSTON (AP)—Rajon Rondo delivered the trash talk at halftime and the big plays in overtime.

And after one final defensive stand—maybe assisted by a Garden ghost—the Boston Celtics were two wins away from an improbable chance to play for another championship.

Rondo had 15 points and 15 assists, and scored the final three points of the Celtics' 93-91 overtime victory over the Miami Heat on Sunday night that evened the Eastern Conference finals at two games apiece.

Getting a huge break when LeBron James fouled out for the first time since joined the Heat, the Celtics recovered after blowing an 18-point lead in regulation and moved two games away from a third trip to the NBA finals in five years.

Garnett added 17 points and 14 rebounds for the Celtics, while Paul Pierce scored 23 points before fouling out. Ray Allen finished with 16 points.

"Stops," Rondo said when asked what was the difference in the tight game. "I think we executed offensively, came up with some lucky plays and we got stops at the end."

James had 29 points and Wade scored 20 after another dismal start for the Heat, who host Game 5 on Tuesday.

"Not stressed the series is tied 2-2," James said. "It's great basketball, great competition. We wanted to get one up here and we didn't."

In a game that started as a Celtics blowout and turned into a foul- and tension-filled fourth quarter, followed by the second overtime in this series, the Celtics held on when Wade missed a potential winning 3-pointer on the last possession.

"It was a good look. It was online but didn't want to go in," Wade said. "Got the shot off I wanted and that is all you can ask for."

Celtics coach Doc Rivers had his own unusual reasoning for Wade's oh-so-close shot.

"Red wasn't going to let that go in. Not in the Boston Garden," he said of former coach Red Auerbach.

Mickael Pietrus drew James' sixth foul and grabbed two huge offensive rebounds that extended consecutive possessions for the Celtics, who lost Game 4 in overtime in a second-round series against the Heat last year with a chance to tie the series.

This time, they overcame their second-half stall on the offensive end by limiting the Heat to just one basket in overtime, by Udonis Haslem, who finished with 12 points and 17 rebounds.

"At the end you have a chance to win after 50-plus minutes and losing the MVP. Hey, you'll take that," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said.

Rondo's layup gave the Celtics a 92-91 lead with 2:34 left, and neither team scored again until he made a free throw with 21 seconds to play. Wade, already finding it tough to locate any room with Chris Bosh out and then having to do it James also on the sideline, saw his potential winning attempt bounce off the rim as time expired.

"I don't ever think I've seen that before," Allen said of James and Pierce fouling out. "But Rondo's on the floor, I'm on the floor, Kevin's on the floor, Wade's on the floor. All that has to happen at that point is the game has to be won. We don't care what it looks like. We had plenty."

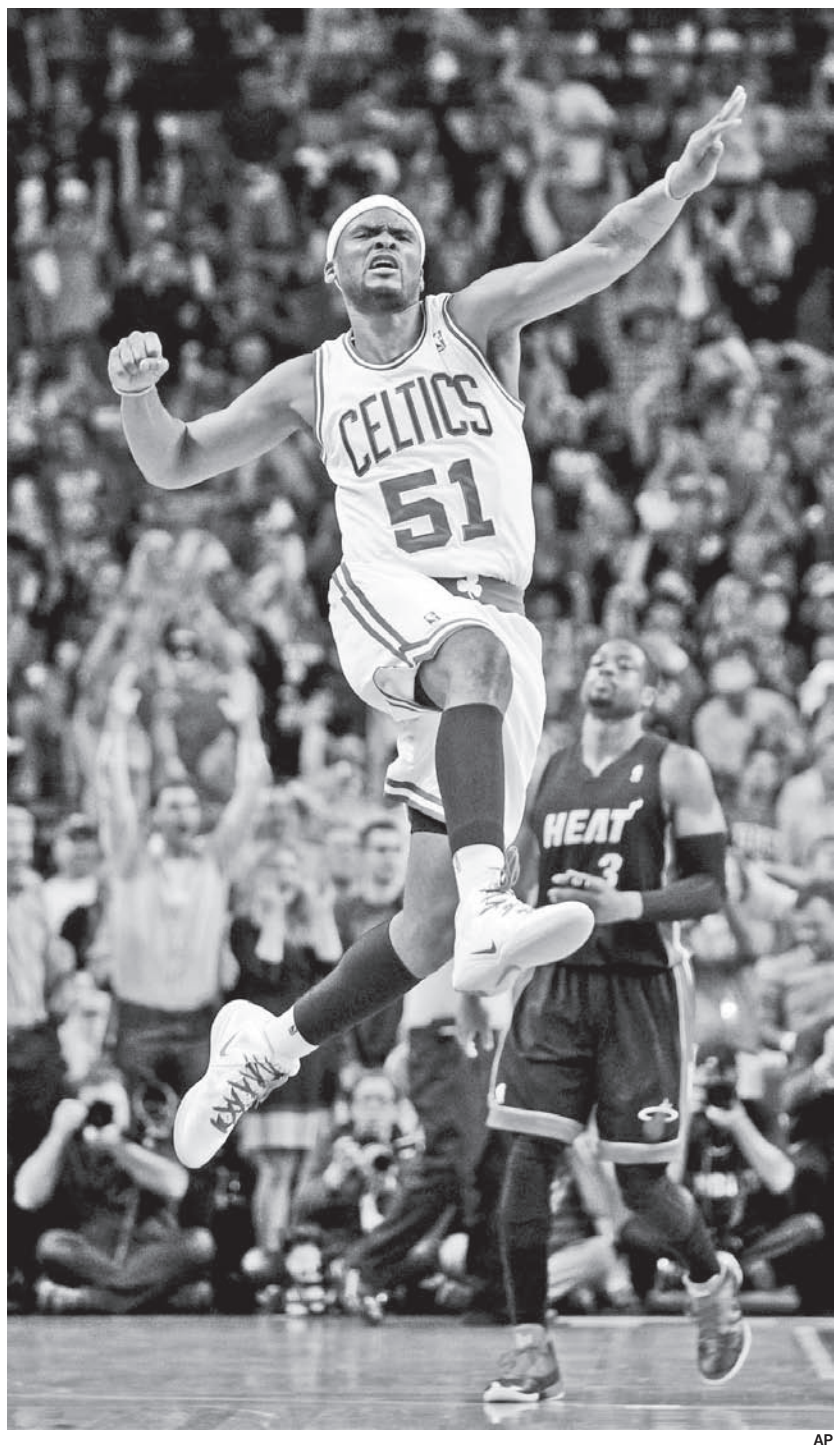
In what could have been the final Beantown game for the Celtics' Big Three, Boston scored 61 points in a sensational first half that concluded with some televised trash talk from Rondo. But the Celtics managed only 12 points in the third quarter, and Wade finally got going after managing just eight points on 2-of-11 shooting in the first half.

"Our execution in the first half was flawless," Rivers said. "It was as good as maybe we've had. And then we just got away from it."

With the Celtics down by two, Pierce and Rondo made consecutive layups for an 85-83 edge with 3:08 to go in regulation. But with the Celtics up three, they lost James, who was wide open with plenty of time to set himself for a 3-pointer that evened it at 89 with 37.5 seconds left.

Garnett was called for an offensive foul on the next possession, giving the Heat the ball back with 21 seconds left. But they passed it around too long, leaving them with a long forced attempt from Haslem that was well off before the buzzer.

The videoboard kept encouraging fans to get louder, as if they needed any prompting in what could have been the final time they got to watch the Big Three together.



AP

Boston Celtics' Keyon Dooling (51) celebrates after hitting a 3-pointer as Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade (3) watches during the second quarter of Game 4 in the NBA basketball Eastern Conference finals playoffs series in Boston, Sunday, June 3, 2012.

Fans who left and stayed away for years during the Celtics' lean years started coming back in the 2007-08 season after Garnett and Allen were traded to Boston to form join an All-Star trio with Pierce, the Garden almost always full as the Celtics won a championship, played in two finals and returned the franchise back to its traditional place atop the East.

But the aging group was nearly broken up when the Celtics sputtered through the first half of the shortened season, and it seems doubtful they'll be back together after this season.

The fans grew even louder when the Celtics ran out to a 14-4 lead after consecutive 3-pointers by Pierce and Allen. The Celtics went to Garnett for their next two baskets, pushing it to 18-4, and when Pierce's 3-pointer made it 21-6, it was the third time in four games they had a lead of at least 15 points.

And after leading the Celtics to the highest-scoring half the Heat have surrendered this postseason, Rondo even fired a shot at the visitors, saying in his televised halftime interview what was working for Boston was the Heat "complaining and crying to the referees in transition."

The feisty point guard didn't back down after the game, either.

"What I said was true," Rondo said. "I don't take back what I said. That's what it is."

It was so hard for the Heat early that James didn't even make his first basket—the Celtics accidentally tipped in his miss, and it was credited to him as the closest player. But Miami finally got untracked when Garnett left for a rest, getting a number of easy baskets to get within six before the Celtics regained control and went ahead 34-23 after one.

The Celtics made 16 of their first 25 shots and seemed intent on outhustling the Heat to the ball on the rare times they did miss. And the Heat, who insisted they would be more aggressive, didn't shoot their first free throw until James was fouled while making a basket with 6:53 remaining in the first half.

Boston pushed the lead to 18 when Pierce shook off a foul and tossed in a long, one-legged jumper with 3:12 left in the second quarter, and the Celtics were ahead 61-47 at the break.

The Celtics averaged 89.1 points on 44 percent shooting in an ugly second-round survival against Philadelphia, then managed a measly 79 points in the opener of this series, the old guys looking like their best basketball was well behind them. They seemed to have solved their offensive woes, then managed only 12 points in the third quarter, losing Rondo along the way to his fourth foul.

It was down to 73-68 after three, and the Heat tied it for the first time when James' layup made it 74-all with 8:54 remaining. Norris Cole's layup on the next possession gave Miami the lead for the first time and it stayed tight from there.

Djokovic, Federer win in Paris, Azarenka doesn't

PARIS (AP)—There was a moment, a little past 4 p.m. on a dank and dreary Sunday at the French Open, when the gray sky above appeared to be falling on some of the best of the best.

A listless Novak Djokovic, looking very little like someone ranked No. 1 and bidding to become the first man in 43 years to win four consecutive Grand Slam titles, was trying to work his way out of a two-set deficit against 22nd-seeded Andreas Seppi of Italy on Court Philippe Chatrier.

Even more astonishingly, a flummoxed Roger Federer, owner of a record 16 major championships, was trudging to the sideline after dropping his first set against 109th-ranked David Goffin of Belgium, a 21-year-old kid thrilled merely to be sharing Court Suzanne Lenglen with his idol. Goffin, it must be noted, was a "lucky loser"—a player beaten in qualifying who got to make his Grand Slam debut only because someone else withdrew.

By that point, one significant upset already was complete Sunday: The No. 1-seeded woman, Australian Open champion Victoria Azarenka, was headed home after losing to No. 15 Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia 6-2, 7-6 (4), busting a racket on the way out the door.

Asked afterward what she'll do to recover from the defeat, Azarenka replied sarcastically, "I'm going to kill myself," then added: "This tournament is over for me. What's to recover from?"

It seemed reasonable, if ever so briefly, to ask in the afternoon whether the tournament might soon be over in the fourth round for Djokovic and Federer, too. In the end, of course, the answer was no.

For quite some time, Djokovic missed shots this way and that, then shook his head or yelled at himself or spread his arms wide with palms up as if to ask, "What's going on here?" He finished with 81 unforced errors in all, exactly his total for his first three matches combined. But Seppi's not nearly as accustomed to these stages or stakes, and Djokovic pulled out a 4-6, 6-7 (5), 6-3, 7-5, 6-3 victory, his 25th in a row at a major tournament.

"One of those days where ... nothing is working," Djokovic said. "I could not get into the rhythm."

He began to turn things around by breaking serve to begin the third set, and he kept on doing that, nine times in all.

"Maybe I could have started the third set better. I could have done a little more there," Seppi said. "But he returns very well, and gets serves back almost always, which makes things difficult."

Djokovic recognized that part of his problems early on had to do with better-than-expected play by Seppi, who knocked off No. 14 Fernando Verdasco to get past the third round at a major tournament for the first time.

So after they shook hands at the net when Djokovic finally closed out the 4-hour, 18-minute win, the Serb applauded Seppi and pointed toward the Italian, telling the crowd to salute him.

The third-seeded Federer, the 2009 champion at Roland Garros, did that one better after his 5-7, 7-5, 6-2, 6-4 victory, giving Goffin a tap on the head and a pat on the backside when they were done playing, then hugging him at the crowd's behest during an on-court interview.

What a thrill for the Belgian, who unabashedly spoke earlier in the tournament about having photos and posters of Federer up in his bedroom as a child.

"I've had an extraordinary week," said the slender Goffin, who might be mistaken for a ball boy. "The icing on the cake was to play here against Roger."

Once Federer seized control in the second and third sets, the outcome never really seemed in doubt. In the last set, Goffin won one point with a touch volley, then raised his index finger—signaling No. 1—and, to the delight of roaring spectators, bowed to all four corners of the arena.

Tiger rallies to win the Memorial

DUBLIN, Ohio (AP)—Tiger Woods was at his best Sunday at the Memorial. He hit nearly every shot just the way he wanted, worked the gallery into a frenzy with one last charge over the final hour and left everyone buzzing—especially Jack Nicklaus—with a shot they will talk about for years.

Better yet was the timing of his 73rd win.

Woods tied Nicklaus for career PGA Tour victories at the tournament that Jack built. And the 14-time major champion suddenly looks equipped to resume his chase of another Nicklaus mark that is more significant—18 major championships.

The U.S. Open starts in 11 days.

With a chip-in that even Woods called one of the toughest shots he ever made, he birdied three of his last four holes to close with a 5-under 67 and turn a two-shot deficit into a two-shot victory over Rory Sabbatini and fast-closing Andres Romero.

Coming off a two-putt birdie on the 15th, Woods hit 8-iron over the green at the par-3 16th and into an impossible lie. It was buried in deep rough, the pin 50 feet away along a ridge. Woods hit a full flop shot, hopeful to give himself a reasonable putt for par. Far more likely was the ball going short and down a slope away from the pin, or coming out too strong and rolling into the water.

No one was thinking birdie, not even Woods, until he took two steps and delivered an uppercut when the ball fell in the right side of the cup.

AP

Tiger Woods holds up the trophy after winning the Memorial golf tournament at the Muirfield Village Golf Club in Dublin, Ohio, Sunday, June 3, 2012. Woods finished at 9-under par.

Nicklaus was gushing from the broadcast booth. "The most unbelievable, gutsy shot I've ever seen," he said.

"Under the circumstances—the circumstances being Tiger has been struggling—it was either fish or cut bait," Nicklaus said later. "He had one place to land the ball. He's playing a shot that if he leaves it short, he's going to leave himself again a very difficult shot. If he hits it long, he's going to probably lose the tournament. He lands the ball exactly where it has to land. Going in the hole was a bonus. But what a shot!

"I don't think under the circumstances I've ever seen a better shot."

Woods, who finished at 9-under 279, won the Memorial for the fifth time. At age 36, he is 10 years younger than Nicklaus when the Golden Bear won his 73rd tournament at the 1986 Masters. Sam Snead holds the PGA Tour record with 82 wins.

It was vintage Woods at Muirfield Village, the fifth course where he has won at least five times. And it was the perfect way for him to end his worst stretch as a pro. After winning at Bay Hill in March, he tied for 40th in the Masters, missed the cut at Quail Hollow and tied for 40th at The Players Championship.

Asked about the endless chatter about whether his game is back, Woods eventually sighed and said, "I'll let you guys figure that out."

Woods won for the second time this year and moved to No. 4 in the world.

This was more impressive than his five-shot win in the Arnold Palmer Invitational at Bay Hill in March, when he had a one-shot lead going into the final round on a course where he could get by with par. The Memorial required much more work, especially when he had to go after birdies on the back nine.

And that's what he did.

Woods reached the par-5 15th into the wind in two shots to set up a two-putt birdie and get within one shot of Sabbatini. But just like that, it looked as if his chances were over when his 8-iron bounded through the green and into a tough lie behind the green.

"I had to take a cut at it because the lie wasn't as great," he said. "I went for it. I pulled it off. And for it to land as soft as it did was kind of a surprise, because it was baked out and it was also running away from me. It just fell in. I didn't think it was going to get there at one point."

Sabbatini didn't need to see it. He was on the 15th green, scrambling for par, when Muirfield Village shook with the loudest roar of the day.

"I knew something was going on up in front," said Sabbatini, who shot 72. "I was really just trying to focus on my own game, and the only thing I could do was control what I was doing. I knew that I was going to have to put a good number up there."

The South African hit his tee shot into the right bunker on the 16th, the third-hardest hole Sunday that yielded only four birdies, and then blasted out to just inside 15 feet and took bogey to fall one behind.

That was all Woods needed.

From the middle of the 18th fairway, with Nicklaus watching from behind the green, Woods hit 9-iron to the perfect spot on the back of the green, where it caught the slope and rolled to just inside 10 feet for the final birdie of a masterful finish.

Fittingly, Woods raised the putter in his left hand before the fall disappeared into the cup. That was the pose Nicklaus struck so often in his career, and this win was all about Woods and Nicklaus.

It was a hard-luck finish for Sabbatini, who has a long history with Woods for brazen comments that always backfire on him. He didn't get many breaks, but kept his patience throughout the final round and still had a chance until he failed to take advantage of a big drive on the 17th, having to save par from a bunker.

Spencer Levin, who had a one-shot lead going into the final round, lost the lead to Sabbatini with a two-shot swing on the par-3 12th, then took double bogey on the next hole to fall from contention. He closed with a 75, the same score he shot in the final round at Phoenix when he had a six-shot lead.

That was nothing compared with Rickie Fowler, who played in the second-to-last group with Woods to help generate an enormous gallery. Fowler opened with a birdie, and his day fell apart after that. With a double bogey on the last hole, he closed with an 84. The only consolation for Fowler was getting a front-row seat to a comeback remarkable even by Woods' standards—especially the chip-in on the 16th. Fowler said a good shot would have been anywhere around 10 feet.

"It came out perfect, landed right on the crown of that ridge there, and the rest is history," Fowler said. "I mean, he loves being in the moment, and that's where he kind of gets down, focuses and hits those shots. It was fun to see."

It was the second time this year Woods has won in his final tuneup before a major. He won Bay Hill, but then tied for 40th at the Masters. The U.S. Open at Olympic Club starts on June 14, and Woods would be quite happy to take the game he had Sunday to San Francisco.

"That was some good stuff out there," Woods said. "I never really missed a shot today."

Jeter, A-Rod homer off Verlander; Yankees win

DETROIT (AP)—Derek Jeter and Alex Rodriguez each homered off Justin Verlander and Phil Hughes pitched a four-hitter to lead the New York Yankees to a 5-1 victory over the Detroit Tigers on Sunday.

Jeter homered on the first pitch of the game, and Rodriguez hit a long solo shot in the third inning. Hughes (5-5) didn't need much support in throwing his first career complete game of nine innings—last Aug. 2 he went all six innings in a rain-shortened win over the White Sox.

Rangers 7, Angels 3

In Anaheim, California, Matt Harrison won his third straight start and Nelson Cruz hit a long two-run homer as Texas beat the streaking Los Angeles Angels to avoid a three-game sweep.

Twins 5, Indians 3

In Cleveland, Scott Diamond allowed three unearned runs over seven innings as Minnesota beat Cleveland.

Joe Mauer hit an RBI single in the first off Justin Masterson (2-5). The Twins star left in the ninth with a sprained right thumb.

Royals 2, Athletics 0

In Kansas City, Missouri, Alex Gordon and Brayan Pena combined on a play at the plate to preserve a shutout for Vin Mazzaro and three Kansas City relievers.

Mazzaro six innings to help beat up on punchless Oakland again. The Athletics are hitting .209 on the season and have been shut out in three of their past four games. The Royals sent the A's to their 10th loss in 11 games.

Blue Jays 5, Red Sox 1

In Toronto, Jose Bautista hit a three-run home run and rookie Drew Hutchison won for the fourth time in five starts as Toronto downed Boston.

In an ill-tempered game that featured four hit batters, plate umpire Mike Winters warned both benches after Boston's Kevin Youkilis was drilled on the shoulder in the sixth. Youkilis stepped in front of the plate and yelled at Hutchison, but the situation did not escalate.

Rays 8, Orioles 4

In St. Petersburg, Florida, B.J. Upton hit a tiebreaking two-run double and Matt Moore won for the first time after losing four straight decisions as Tampa Bay beat Baltimore.

Upton gave the Rays a 4-2 lead with a two-out hit off Jake Arrieta (2-7) in the fifth. Arrieta walked three during the inning.

White Sox 4, Mariners 2

In Chicago, Chris Sale pitched a five-hitter for his first major league complete game as Chicago won for the 10th time in 11 games.

Sale (7-2) struck out eight and walked two. It was his 10th start this year after pitching in relief for Chicago during the last two seasons.

Braves 3, Nationals 2

In Washington, Tommy Hanson shook off an agonizing start to outpitch Gio Gonzalez as the Atlanta Braves beat the Washington Nationals to end a six-game losing streak against their National League East rivals.

Hanson (6-4) gave up homers to the first two batters he faced, with Steve Lombardozzi and Bryce Harper connecting on consecutive pitches. They became the first pair of rookies in modern baseball history to homer in succession leading off a game, the Nationals said in citing the Elias Sports Bureau.

Mets 6, Cardinals 1

In New York, Jonathon Niese struck out a career-high 10 batters in six scoreless innings as New York shut down St. Louis for the third straight game, getting a homer and three RBIs from rookie Kirk Nieuwenhuis.

Andres Torres added a two-run triple and finished a homer shy of the cycle. Nieuwenhuis, batting leadoff, also had three hits.

Giants 2, Cubs 0

In San Francisco, Barry Zito pitched 8 1-3 scoreless innings for his 150th career win and Joaquin Arias snapped an 18 at-bat hitless stretch with an RBI single that led San Francisco over Chicago.

Zito (5-2) was rarely threatened by the struggling Cubs, allowing just four hits and two walks before leaving to a standing ovation after a one-walk to Darwin Barney in the ninth. Sergio Romo finished for his second save.

Marlins 5, Phillies 1

In Philadelphia, Carlos Zambrano homered and pitched into the eighth inning, and Hanley Ramirez also went deep to lead Miami over Philadelphia.

Zambrano (4-3) allowed four hits, walked two and struck out seven in before leaving with two outs in the eighth to win for the seventh time in nine games.

Diamondbacks 6, Padres 0

In San Diego, Trevor Cahill threw a six-hitter and Paul Goldschmidt, Miguel Montero and Gerardo Parra homered to lead Arizona past San Diego.

Cahill (3-5) threw his second career shutout and complete game. His other came with Oakland on Aug. 2, 2010 in a 6-0 win against Kansas City when he threw a three-hitter.

Astros 5, Reds 3

In Houston, Jordan Lyles pitched seven strong innings and Justin Maxwell hit his third pinch-hit home run this season as Houston ended a season-worst eight-game losing streak by beating Cincinnati.

Lyles (1-1) allowed five hits and struck out three in his first win since last Aug. 20.

Rockies 3, Dodgers 2

In Denver, Alex White gave the overworked Colorado bullpen some much-needed rest, pitching shutout ball into the seventh inning as Colorado beat Los Angeles.

The Rockies took two of three from the NL West leaders.

Pirates 6, Brewers 5

In Milwaukee, Andrew McCutchen and Garrett Jones hit consecutive home runs and James McDonald struck out eight and won for the third time in four starts when Pittsburgh beat Milwaukee.

McDonald (5-2) held the Brewers to four hits and a walk, and only one of the three runs he allowed was earned.

Mayweather due to begin Vegas jail sentence

BOXING

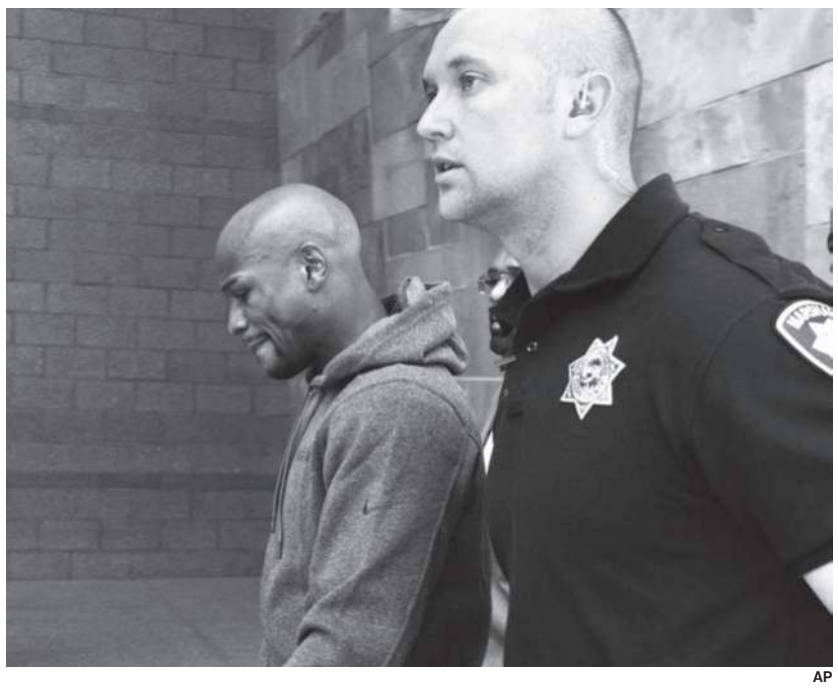
LAS VEGAS (AP) — Free time is about to run out for Floyd Mayweather Jr., who is due to begin a three-month jail sentence in Las Vegas stemming from a hair-pulling, arm-twisting attack in September 2010 on the mother of three of his children.

The unbeaten five-division champion's legal and ring advisers weren't immediately commenting on Thursday about Mayweather's scheduled Friday surrender before Las Vegas Justice of the Peace Melissa Saragosa.

The judge sentenced him on Dec. 22 for his guilty plea to reduced charges in the domestic battery case.

Mayweather's lawyers, Karen Winckler and Richard Wright, said previously they didn't plan to seek another postponement or delay.

Mayweather, now 35, was initially due to begin his sentence on Jan. 6. But Saragosa agreed at the last minute to let him remain free long enough to fight Miguel Cotto on May 5 in Las Vegas. The fighter who goes by the nickname "Money" won the bout and a guaranteed $32 million. Cotto was paid $8 million.



AP

Floyd Mayweather, Jr., left, for his court appearance, Friday, June 1, 2012, in Las Vegas.

Mayweather's stint in the high-rise Clark County Detention Center in Las Vegas is expected to limit his ability to train for another fight.

At least for the first week, Mayweather will be segregated for his protection from the other 3,200 inmates, Las Vegas police Officer Bill Cassell said. He'll get one hour of exercise time a day outside his cell.

Saragosa said when she sentenced Mayweather that she was particularly troubled that he threatened and hit ex-girlfriend Josie Harris while their two sons watched. The boys were 10 and 8 at the time. The older boy ran out a back door to fetch a security guard in the gated community.

However, the judge accepted the plea deal that avoided trial on felony and misdemeanor charges that could have gotten Mayweather 34 years in state prison if he had been convicted on all counts.

Mayweather's pending jail term will be capped at 87 days. Saragosa gave him credit for three days previously served.

Mayweather also was ordered to complete a yearlong domestic violence counseling program, 100 hours of community service and pay a $2,500 fine.

It was not immediately clear on Thursday if those requirements had been met.

Harris's lawyer, Charles Kelly, declined to comment on Mayweather's scheduled surrender. Harris and the three children now live in Southern California.

CNMI

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and off the pitch," Salas said.

"They have been training for several months and this weekend is the time to put into play what they have learned during their practice sessions," the NMIFA official added.

The AFC competition will be held at the Jiangning Football Training Centre in Nanjing, China, from June 9 to 14 with the CNMI youth strikers competing against teams from host China, Chinese-Taipei, North Korea, South Korea, and Japan. The Commonwealth and five other nations are in Group B (east) of the three-group tournament.

"We are in a tough draw with Japan and the two Koreas joining our group, but everybody is ready to play their game and see what happens next," Salas said.

Group A is for central, south, and west member-countries, while Group C is named the ASEAN bracket. The CNMI's neighbor—Guam—is in Group C with Cambodia, the Philippines, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam, while Group A is composed of Bhutan, Iran, India, Jordan, Palestine, and Sri Lanka.

The U13 event in Nanjing is one of the series of AFC tournaments the CNMI will be competing in from 2012 to 2013. The Commonwealth youth strikers are also invited to qualifying events for the AFC U16 Girls Championship 2013, AFC U16 Boys Championship 2014, and the EAFF U15 Boys Youth Tournament. In April this year, the CNMI also joined the AFC U14 Boys Festival of Football in Beijing, China.

TSUNAMI

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Rezne Wong's four-year-old record (1:12.19/Feb. 2, 2008) in the boys 15 to 16 age group.

Tan competed in the much younger age group—13 to 14—and won gold medals in the 50m, 100m, and 200m breaststroke events. She logged 1:26:17 in the 100m breaststroke, 41.45 in the 50m, and 3:06.79 in the 200m.

De Jesus was in the same age group as Tan's and saved bronze medals in the 50m butterfly and 50m freestyle races. She tallied 36.51 seconds in the 50m butterfly, surpassing her seed time (36.78 seconds) and posted 33.43 seconds in the 50m freestyle event.

Toda was in the boys 11 to 12 division and collected one gold, one silver, and one bronze. His gold-medal winning time in the 200m breaststroke was 3:19.58, while he recorded 1:33.81 and 43.41 seconds in the 100m and 50m breaststroke events, respectively.

Takumi Sugie of the boys 13 to 14 age group also had one gold (50m backstroke) and silver (50m freestyle) to go with his two bronze (100m and 200m freestyle swims). He completed the 50m backstroke in 36.14 seconds, the 50m freestyle in 29.47 seconds, and the 100m freestyle in 1:04. 70. Then in the 200m freestyle, Sugie checked in at the 2:20.56 mark, eclipsing his seed time of 2:24.64.

Last month's tournament in Guam was Tsunami Saipan's final event for the 2011-2012 season. The club is then expected to hold its yearly recognition ceremony before starting a new season in August or September.

MDX

From Page 28

players also scored for their twin-digit lead, entering the final canto.

Jaymark De Guzman picked up where Alegre left off, making Bayani's first six points and six more later in the fourth for the easy victory. De Guzman led all scorers with his 18, while Chris Mizer and Nevin Salem also finished in double figures with 11 and 10, respectively. Jack Aranda and Josephus Aguilar added eight apiece in Bayani's balance offense.

Three SIP players—Michael Moran, Sheen Metran, and Lester Vertudez—broke into double figures, but their baskets came when the game was already decided.

In the fourth and final game of the day, the experienced crew of MDX dominated the young guns of Boholano, which is composed of CNMI U17 Team 2 players.

Only seven players suited up for MDX, but four of them combined for 65 points, just two points short of Boholano's total production. Eugene Manglona tallied 19, Frank Mettao and Melvin Cadiang fired 18 apiece, and Adrian Palacios nailed 10.

Tyler Palacios paced the debuting Boholano with his 13 points. Tyler Palacios and company stayed afloat only in the first period, as MDX was up by only eight, 21-13. Then a 22-10 scoring in the third turned MDX's 38-25 halftime lead to a big 60-35 advantage.

Third Game

Bayani/DYS 83 – De Guzman 18, Alegre 17, Mizer 11, Salem 10, Aguilar 8, Aranda 8, Mariano 4.

SIP/Barney's 62 – Moran 12, Vertudez 10, Metran 10, Sacramento 8, Dela Rosa 8, Devero 5, Darag 5, Maranan 2, Salas 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-15, 37-31, 56-44, 83-62.

Fourth Game

MDX/Mariana Resort 81 – Manglona 19, Cadiang 18, Mettao 18, Palacios 10, Caro 8, Deleon Guerrero 4.

Boholano/AON 67—Palacios 13, Sanarez 10, Javier 10, Deleon 8, Lapuz 8, Regis 8, Mendoza 6, Villagomez 2, Escalada 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-13, 38-25, 60-35, 81-67.

TRIUMPH

From Page 28

62. Julius Tabamo brought Banahaw back in the game in the third, unloading eight of his 17 points in that period. After being outscored in the first two quarters, 14-21, 17-19, Banahaw outgunned the Fastbreakers in the third, 18-13.

However, the Fastbreakers kept the driver's seat in the fourth behind the 10 and 8 points of Salem and Aranda, respectively. Cadiang chipped in 5 in the payoff canto.

In the curtain-raiser, Team Pogi hit timely treys in the third and escaped with fastbreak layups in the fourth quarter to beat AD-31.

The AD-31 and Team Pogi tiff was pretty even with the match tied after the first, 15-all, and the latter ahead by only three at the break, 32-29.

Then at the start of the second half, there was a seesaw battle with Team Pogi managing to stay in front, 52-49, after scoring 12 of its last 14 points from beyond the arc.

It was still a close game in the fourth period and Team Pogi was only on top by 4 points, 73-69, entering the final 2:30 minutes of the match before Jason Bahillo completed a 3-point fastbreak play and Harold Aranda hit back-to-back uncontested layups to close the deal, 79-69.

Harold Aranda paced Team Pogi with 14 points, while Erlan Lansang and Jeff Bahillo contributed 13 and 12, respectively, and Jason Bahillo made 10 for a balance scoring. Rod Sacramento and Lester Vertudez logged 18 each for AD-31, while Baldo Lavarias also scored double figures (13), but was held to one field goal in the fourth period.

Meanwhile, Friday's games were rained-out and will be rescheduled on a later date.

First Game

Team Pogi 82 – H. Aranda 14, Lansang 13, Je. Bahillo 12, Ja. Bahillo 10, Alegre 9, Chan 8, Sula 6, Raquero 4. Gallardo 2, Aglipay 2.

AD-31 70 – Sacramento 18, Vertudez 18, Lavarias 13, Cariano 9, Tenorio 5, Sablan 4.

Scoring by quarters: 15-15, 32-29, 52-49, 82-70.

Second Game

Fastbreakers 81 – Aranda 27, Salem 21, Cadiang 15, De Leon 6, Palacios 6, Saturno 4.

Banahaw Restaurant 72 – Saplan 18, Tabamo 17, Lansang 16, Javier 10, Pacson 4, Zapata 2, Tuwon 1.

Scoring by quarters: 21-14, 40-31, 53-49, 81-72.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	31	23	.574	–
Baltimore	30	24	.556	1
New York	29	24	.547	1 1/2
Boston	28	26	.519	3
Toronto	28	26	.519	3

Central Division

Chicago	31	23	.574	–
Cleveland	28	25	.528	2 1/2
Detroit	25	29	.463	6
Kansas City	23	29	.442	7
Minnesota	20	33	.377	10 1/2

West Division

Texas	32	22	.593	–
Los Angeles	28	27	.509	4 1/2
Seattle	24	32	.429	9
Oakland	23	31	.426	9

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	30	22	.577	–
Miami	31	23	.574	–
New York	31	23	.574	–
Atlanta	29	25	.537	2
Philadelphia	28	27	.509	3 1/2

Central Division

Cincinnati	30	23	.566	–
Pittsburgh	27	26	.509	3
St. Louis	27	27	.500	3 1/2
Milwaukee	24	30	.444	6 1/2
Houston	23	31	.426	7 1/2
Chicago	18	35	.340	12

West Division

Los Angeles	33	21	.611	–
San Francisco	30	24	.556	3
Arizona	25	29	.463	8
Colorado	23	30	.434	9 1/2
San Diego	18	37	.327	15 1/2

MEMORIAL SCORES

DUBLIN, Ohio (AP)–Scores Saturday at the Memorial, a US PGA Tour event at 7,352-yard, par-72 Muirfield Village Golf Club:

FINAL ROUND

Tiger Woods (500), $1,116,000	70-69-73-67–279
Andres Romero (245), $545,600	69-73-72-67–281
Rory Sabbatini (245), $545,600	69-69-71-72–281
Spencer Levin (123), $272,800	67-72-69-75–283
Daniel Summerhays (123), $272,800	69-71-74-69–283
Jonathan Byrd (95), $215,450	71-70-72-71–284
Matt Every (95), $215,450	69-75-71-69–284
Justin Rose (85), $192,200	73-72-71-69–285
Aaron Baddeley (75), $167,400	69-72-73-72–286
Ryo Ishikawa, $167,400	72-70-71-73–286
Greg Owen (75), $167,400	72-71-76-67–286
Luke Donald (65), $142,600	71-73-75-68–287
J.B. Holmes (58), $119,867	72-75-74-67–288
Bo Van Pelt (58), $119,867	73-69-75-71–288
Jim Furyk (58), $119,867	72-68-75-73–288
Davis Love III (54), $99,200	74-72-71-72–289
Vijay Singh (54), $99,200	72-73-69-75–289
Kevin Stadler (54), $99,200	72-73-71-73–289
Blake Adams (50), $72,540	69-77-71-73–290
K.J. Choi (50), $72,540	74-71-77-68–290
John Huh (50), $72,540	71-74-76-69–290
Dustin Johnson (50), $72,540	71-71-73-75–290
Hunter Mahan (50), $72,540	72-73-77-68–290
Charl Schwartzel (50), $72,540	73-72-73-72–290
Ricky Barnes (40), $40,777	72-72-76-71–291
Brian Davis (40), $40,777	73-72-74-72–291
Branden Grace, $40,777	74-72-75-70–291
Chris Kirk (40), $40,777	75-70-75-71–291
Stewart Cink (40), $40,777	71-73-73-74–291
Nicolas Colsaerts, $40,777	72-74-73-72–291
David Hearn (40), $40,777	70-75-70-76–291
Trevor Immelman (40), $40,777	71-70-75-75–291
David Mathis (40), $40,777	71-71-74-75–291
Pat Perez (40), $40,777	74-73-72-72–291
Kyle Reifers (40), $40,777	71-70-73-77–291
Scott Stallings (40), $40,777	66-73-75-77–291
Cameron Tringale (40), $40,777	72-74-73-72–291
Greg Chalmers (30), $24,800	71-71-77-73–292
Erik Compton (30), $24,800	67-75-75-75–292
Brendon de Jonge (30), $24,800	73-71-74-74–292
Troy Matteson (30), $24,800	72-69-76-75–292
Ryan Moore (30), $24,800	70-73-71-78–292
Nick O'Hern (30), $24,800	74-73-74-71–292
Jeff Overton (30), $24,800	72-72-78-70–292
Johnson Wagner (30), $24,800	72-72-73-75–292
Lucas Glover (24), $17,577	74-68-75-76–293
Rod Pampling (24), $17,577	72-74-73-74–293
Adam Scott (24), $17,577	70-72-77-74–293
Henrik Stenson (24), $17,577	74-68-71-80–293
Fred Couples (21), $15,438	74-73-76-71–294
Steve Stricker (21), $15,438	73-70-75-76–294
Bud Cauley (18), $14,539	70-76-77-72–295
Rickie Fowler (18), $14,539	71-71-69-84–295
Seung-Yul Noh (18), $14,539	72-73-75-75–295
Charlie Wi (18), $14,539	71-75-75-74–295
Robert Allenby (15), $14,074	73-74-77-72–296
Jhonattan Vegas (15), $14,074	74-73-75-74–296
Chris DiMarco (12), $13,702	73-72-73-79–297
Ernie Els (12), $13,702	70-75-74-78–297
Marc Leishman (12), $13,702	72-75-75-75–297
Geoff Ogilvy (12), $13,702	71-74-79-73–297
Harris English (8), $13,206	71-75-80-72–298
Ryuji Imada (8), $13,206	75-72-71-80–298
Brendan Steele (8), $13,206	72-75-74-77–298
Jimmy Walker (8), $13,206	72-73-78-75–298
Brandt Jobe (5), $12,834	73-74-79-73–299
Mark Wilson (5), $12,834	70-76-78-75–299
Scott Piercy (3), $12,648	70-75-80-75–300
Ben Crane (2), $12,524	72-75-74-80–301
Robert Garrigus (1), $12,338	71-76-79-77–303
Camilo Villegas (1), $12,338	73-74-82-74–303

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The 4th Annual Saipan International Open Water Flipper Race Tournament will be held on June 23 in the waters off Managaha Island.

Managaha hosts 4th Flipper Race on June 23

The award-winning, blue waters of Managaha Island in the CNMI welcome swimmers with flippers to the 4th Annual Saipan International Open Water Flipper Race Tournament on June 23.

Voted best dive and snorkeling spot in the Pacific for numerous years at the annual Japan Dive Fair, Managaha is the most popular site for visitors to Saipan. The race features a 1.5-kilometer swim around the island. Over 40 participants from Japan have already confirmed to make the three-hour flight to Saipan for the annual signature event of the Marianas Visitors Authority.

This unique race requires swimmers to use wetsuits and fins. Snorkels and life jackets are also allowed. Competition age divisions are: 19-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, and 60-and-up. Those age 18 and under will be entered into the Junior Division.

Ferries will depart Smiling Cove Marina to Managaha promptly at 5:30am the morning of the race. The race will begin at 6:30am, followed by an island-style breakfast and awards ceremony on the white sand beaches of Managaha.

The event is also sponsored by the Community Sports Center Foundation of Japan.

"We're looking forward to a stronger turnout this year, as we feel this event has a lot of growth potential, given the popularity and strong reputation of Managaha," said MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas.

The cost is $5 for Northern Mariana Island residents with valid ID. The deadline to register with the MVA is June 22, 2012, from 4:30pm to 6:30pm during the orientation at the American Memorial Park amphitheater on Saipan. Participants must be in good health with snorkeling or diving experience.

For more information or to register, contact the MVA at 664-3210, or visit the Events Calendar at www.mymarianas.com.

The 4th Annual Saipan International Open Water Flipper Race Tournament will be held at Managaha in the Northern Mariana Islands on June 23, 2012. ***(MVA)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The IT&E Incedibles, pictured in this file photo, were declared the SBA's two-time Agingan division Budweiser Cup Champions last Tuesday after defeating Utopia Sports Bar's New Saipan Aluminum Hustlers, 9-5, in a home match held at Bammy's Bar & Grill.

IT&E Incredibles clinch back-to-back Bud Cups

The IT&E Incredibles captured its second straight Saipan Billiards Association-Agingan Division Budweiser Cup postseason tournament after beating Utopia Sports Bar's third-ranked New Saipan Aluminum-Hustlers, 9-5, at home in Bammy's Bar & Grill last Tuesday.

The IT&E Incredibles are made up of team captain Mark Butac with Chester Hamoy, Dean Borja, Erick Caisip, James Wabinga, and Mark Estrada.

Meanwhile, the Obyan Division Budweiser Cup finals take place tonight around 7:30pm at Joe's Steakhouse and features Jonny's Bar & Grill's favored Crazy 8 facing sixth place host team Fotten Palau.

Fourth-ranked Crazy 8 unseated 19th Hole Bar's frontrunner Titans, 9-4, last Tuesday, while sixth place Fotten Palau advanced over Boom Boom, 9-4, at Bammy's.

After the final champion is crowned, SBA's awards banquet will be held this Sunday starting at 10:30am in Charley's Cabaret at Pacific Islands Club. ***(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)***

QQ Rent-A-Car burns Mobil, 90-86

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND

QQ Rent-A-Car's Ichitaro Faisao double pumps a layup in traffic during Saturday's Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League matchup against Mobil held on Garapan court.

QQ Rent-A-Car held off Mobil, 90-86, in an A Division nail-biter that went all the way down to the final minute as the Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League season continued Saturday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Undefeated QQ Rent-A-Car's third straight win put them alone at first place in the standings, while Mobil evened its card to a win and a loss.

In addition, Cargo Express' engine stalled out of the gate, but recovered with a big surge in the second quarter that helped them siren past Hip Hop Thunder, 84-77, in the B Division curtain-raiser. The win lifted Cargo Express' win-loss card to a pair of wins with one loss, while Thunder fell to a mark of 1-2.

The season continues Thursday night at 6pm with B Division's Loving Hands (1-1) against unbeaten Saipan Hardware (2-0) followed at 8pm by A Division's DLX (1-1) taking on Ashley's (0-2).

The rest of the field is made up of A Division's R-Rebels (1-1) and Star Water (0-1) along with B Division's NVM (1-1) and Wanted Sponsor (1-1).

QQ Rent-A-Car grinded out an early 23-20 edge in the opening 10 minutes with an early 3-pointer by Marlon Sison, 5 markers by Ichitaro Faisao in the thick, and a handful of points by Badong Camacho late in the first quarter.

Mobil's Jun Estolas took over in the second period and sunk a pair of threes for 12 points to help nab the lead, 40-38, at the half.

QQ's Sison caught fire after intermission and rang in two from downtown for 14 points, but Mobil's Estolas, Gyles Ruluked, and Sahj Hossain managed to knot up the score at 62-all heading into the payoff period.

QQ's Lerio Pagarao turned it on in the fourth quarter with 10 points that helped produce a two-possession advantage.

QQ also held Mobil's Estolas to just four points in the clutch, which played a big role in preserving the win.

In the end a fastbreak bucket by Faisao and a pair of free throws by Camacho sealed the deal.

QQ's Sison finished with a team-high 19, while Mobil's Estolas led all scorers with 27 in defeat.

In the early match, Cargo Express catapulted away from a 14-all deadlock in the opening period with a 27-point outburst in the second quarter for a 41-27 gap at halftime.

Pete Lizama dropped in two 3-pointers for 9 points that went with 10 more in support by Mark Francisco. Dennis Morales also provided a dozen markers through two frames, while Hip Hop Thunder's front man Ivan Devero was held to 10 points at midpoint.

Devero tallied 10 points in the third quarter that was complemented by a pair of treys by Gino Libuw as the Thunder battled its way back into the game, but Cargo Express maintained control, 66-58, heading into the final period thanks to a pair of answers from behind the arc and a handful of late scores by Morales.

Thunder's Devero was held to just two free throws at crunch time, while Cargo Express had a number of players step up in the clutch, including Brandon Talania' six points off the bench in the late minutes.

Cargo Express' Lizama and Thunder's Devero both finished with 24 points, however the former's teammates Morales and Larry Sharry may have made the difference as the duo combined for 40 in the no-doubt win.

First Game

Cargo Express 84 – Lizama 24, Morales 21, Sharry 19, Berline 10, Archangel 4, Francisco 4

Hip-Hop Thunder 77 – I. Devero 24, C. Devero 14, Mateo 13, Libuw 13, Tumaquip 6, Sacramento 4, Omnez 3.

Scoring by quarters: 14-14, 41-27, 66-58, 84-77.

Second Game

QQ Rent-A-Car 90 – Sison 19, Faisao 18, B Camacho 16, Pagarao 14, Mangali 8, Paraiso 7, Montes 4, Acosta 2, Palacios 2.

Mobil 86 – Estolas 27, Ruluked 19, Hossain 12, Ajoste 10, Deguzman 8, Demapan 8, Fernando 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-20, 38-40, 62-62, 90-86.

Summer Soccer Camp starts June 11

MARK RABAGO

Youth soccer players will get a chance to learn the fundamentals of the sport when Saipan Soccer School starts its 2012 Summer Soccer Camp for U8 and U10 boys and girls on June 11.

The Saipan Soccer School will conduct its 2012 Summer Soccer Camp for U8 and U10 boys and girls starting this June at its facility inside the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai.

Registration is free and will start on June 11. Sessions will last for two weeks and will run from Monday to Friday. Sessions are as follows:

- 1st session – June 11 to June 22
- 2nd session – June 25 to July 6
- 3rd session – July 9 to July 20
- 4th session – July 23 to Aug. 3

U10 boys and girls sessions are from 8am to 9:30am and U8 boys and girls sessions are from 10am to 11:30am. Parents are encouraged to enroll their children and enjoy the basic and advanced fundamentals and skills of the game.

For more information, contact the Saipan Soccer School Office at 235-8747 ext 148 or call Mae Ito at 287-3607 or Jersh Angeles at 285-7387.

Futsal league kicks off June 18

In related news, the Saipan Soccer School will have three divisions when its 2012 Futsal League kicks off on June 18.

The three divisions are made up of the youth division (U14 boys and U18 boys), the men's division, and women's division.

Registration fee for all players is $10 and deadline for registration/waiver forms with fee is on June 15 with the league starting.

The school said players must complete and sign a registration and waiver form and players under the age of 18 must have their parent's or guardian's signature.

Schedules and other information will be handed out once teams are defined.

For more information, contact the Saipan Soccer School office at 235-8747 ext. 148 or call Mae Ito at 287-3607 or Jersh Angeles at 285-7387. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Tiger rallies to win the Memorial

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Celtics beat Heat in OT, tie East finals at 2-2

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CNMI strikers all set for AFC tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

A 20-player CNMI Girls U13 Team is heading to China tomorrow to compete in the AFC U13 Girls Football Tournament.

The team is composed of Carla Mae Ballesteros, Guinevere Borja, Maile Aldrich, Britany Wally, Mary Kay Alferos, Patricia Santiago, Jesreelyn Bulaklak, Angelica and Lyka Sally, Bernadette Horey, Angelina Villagomez, Diana Maniacop, Samantha Manacop, Jasmine Phan, De'Jana Muna, Yna Poquiz, Renita Fleming, Chevy Alipio, Krizel Tuazon, and Chloe Salvosa. Players were selected from the various teams competing in Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's U12 and U15 leagues.

Joining the squad are coach Jimmy Tan, his assistant, Patricia Coleman of Paire Footbal Club, physiotherapist Pamela Ann Carhill, delegation head Joseph Kevin Villagomez, and team manager and NMIFA general secretary Ed Salas.

"We had our final meeting this afternoon [yesterday] and the girls are all set and very excited to compete in China for the first time. They know what is expected from them—to play their best in every game and represent the CNMI well on

See CNMI on Page 26

MDX, Bayani dominate U20 foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MDX/Mariana Resort took the early lead in the U20 division of the 2012 UFO Docomo Pacific Cup, while Bayani/DYS had a rousing debut last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

MDX whipped Boholano/AON in the last game in the U20 division, 81-67, to improve to a 2-0 record, while Bayani routed SIP/Barney's in the third match, 83-62.

Bayani/DYS, which is composed of the CNMI U17 Team 1 that played in last month's Micronesian Basketball Tournament, showed cohesion on the floor to hand SIP its second loss in as many games, getting away with several fastbreak layups and other easy baskets off extra passes in the second half en route to a 21-point victory.

The Bayani lead was only pegged at six points at the break, 37-31, but ballooned to 12 at the end of the third, 56-44, as SIP failed to contain the former's good ball movement and Alegre. Alegre drilled seven of his 17 points in the third, while four other Bayani

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Bayani/DYS' Christian Mizer, center, goes for a layup SIP/Barney's Sheen Metran, right, and Michael Moran during their game in the U20 division of the UFO Docomo Pacific Cup last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

5 Tsunami swimmers deliver medals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Five more Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan swimmers contributed to the visiting club's the medal haul in late last month's 2012 Guam Championship in Hagatna.

Delivering 16 additional medals for Tsunami Saipan were Angel Marie Tan, Angel De Jesus, Ryosei Toda, Takumi Sugie, and Kensuke Kimura. Miku Tammy and siblings Kaito and Ryuto Yanai had earlier handed Tsunami Saipan 16 gold and two silver medals besides winning the overall championships in their respective age groups.

Kimura placed only third overall in the boys 15 to 16 age group, but had four gold medals to his credit after topping the 200m and 400m individual medley races, 100m breaststroke, and 50m freestyle. He timed in at 2:20.43 and 5:09.63 in the 200m and 400m IM events, respectively, and submitted 27/71 seconds in the 50m freestyle race. Kimura's 1:12.52 in the 100m breaststroke event moved him closer to breaking

See TSUNAMI on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center's Angel Marie Tan, seen here competing in a local meet in April 2012, won three gold medals in last month's Guam Championships in Hagatna.

Fastbreakers, Team Pogi triumph

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Fastbreakers prevailed over Banahaw Restaurant in the battle of undefeated squads, while Team Pogi topped AD-31 as the regular season games in the 2012 DLX/DL JOS Inter-Color Basketball League resumed last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

The Fastbreakers outclassed Banahaw Restaurant in the nightcap, 81-72, to improve to a 4-0 record and keep the lead in Bracket B. Banahaw dropped to a 2-1 slate. In the Bracket A match, Team Pogi downed AD-31, 82-70, for its second win in three games. AD-31 fell to a 1-3 card.

The trio of Jack Aranda, Niko Salem, and Melvin Cadiang made life difficult for Banahaw Restaurant, as they combined for 63 big points. Aranda nailed a game-high 27 points, including 15 from downtown, while Salem and Cadiang added 21 and 15, respectively.

The Fastbreakers led from start to finish and was only threatened in the third period when its nine-point halftime lead was trimmed to three, 49-

See TRIUMPH on Page 26

Team Pogi's Jeff Bahillo gets away for an easy layup against AD-31 during their game in the DLX/DL JOS caging last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO